

The Norwegian National Initiative for Safe Communities

Injury prevention, by means of the Safe Community concept, is an area of national focus in Norway. The Norwegian authorities have thus decided to establish a secretariat for Safe Communities at the National Institute of Public Health. One of its responsibilities is to assist communities in the development of initiatives directed at local injury prevention, and to establish a national network of municipalities that are active in the area of injury prevention.

The secretariats mandate: The National Secretariat for Safe Community shall first and foremost support municipalities and local communities in their work with injury prevention and safety promotion, within the framework of 'Safe Communities'. Two of the main tasks are to give advice regarding the effectiveness of different injury preventing measures, and to help evaluating the effect of the measures that local communities implement. Communicating research in a popularised way is also an important part of our job. We do this mainly by publishing a newsletter four times a year, called Au! (Ouch!), and by publishing information on our Internet site: <http://www.folkehelsa.no/fag/tl> (in Norwegian only).

Another important issue the secretariat is working with, is to improve the co-operation between the local communities working with safety promotion, and to strengthen the networks of Safe Communities. Participating in and help organise conferences on a regional and county-based level is also an important way to support and build a national network of Safe Communities, in addition to arranging and participating in national conferences and seminars.

The secretariat for Safe Communities also has a national obligation to support the nine ministries behind the plan of action 1997-2002 on prevention of injuries at home, school and in recreation in their follow-up of the goals and objectives in this plan.

The main goal in this plan is as follows: By the year 2002 the co-ordinated planning and development of a positive attitude towards safety measures at all levels of decision making and in all sectors will result in the reduction in the number of injuries that result in death, hospital admission and medical treatment due to accidents.

Two additional objectives have been formulated for this plan: 1. Injury deaths will be reduced by at least 25% from 1980 to the year 2000. 2. Injuries that result in hospital admission and medical treatment will be reduced by at least 10% from 1993 to the year 2002.

The stated objective to reduce injury deaths is in accordance with goals set by the World Health

Organization in this area.

This plan of action also emphasises community based injury prevention and safety promotion through the Safe Community concept.

It has thus set up two outcomes for the development and establishment of Safe Communities in Norway: * At least 15 Norwegian municipalities should fulfil the criteria approval equivalent to "Safe Communities" by the year 2002. * By the year 2002, at least 10% of the country's municipalities should have implemented injury prevention initiatives in line with the following important criteria for approval as a "Safe Community": * establishment of groups co-operating across sectors * the work is well anchored both in the municipality's long-term planning and among the top level decision makers * the municipality can document injury frequencies and causal patterns * the work has a long-term perspective.

For the year 2000, about 30 local communities receive financial support from the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs to work with injury prevention and safety promotion in line with the Safe Community concept. Harstad County is still the only Safe Community in Norway, but we expect two or three new designations this year, and approximately equal numbers for the years 2001 and 2002.



Camilla Sandvik Knudsen
Leader of the Norwegian secretariat
for Safe Communities

Courses

New important research course for postgraduates:

Global Burden of Injury! October 30 – November 3, 2000

A new research course addressing the global injury situation and its macro-level and historical determinants will be arranged at Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm. The course is given in direct conjunction with the 3rd International Ph.D. Course on Safety Promotion Research at the same institute in order to facilitate participation in both courses for international students.

For further details, see enclosed announcement. Please observe that due to late announcement applications are welcome also later than the official deadline. As mentioned in the announcement, the application form is available electronically at http://edu.ki.se/research/courses/postgrad_catalogue/fall2000_en.html

Ragnar Andersson
Associate Professor

MPH Course on Safety Promotion 3 - 16 May 2001

Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

The course gives basic knowledge of concepts and definitions, as well as epidemiology and surveillance. It focus on strategies and action plans for safety promotion and injury prevention in various settings at national, regional and local levels.

The course gives two credit points.

Deadline for registration: 15 October 2000

Application forms can be ordered from the course secretariat: Lily Mogess

Phone: +46 8 517 779 41; Fax: +46 8 33 46 93

E-mail: lily.mogess@socmed.sll.se

Fourth International Ph.D. Course on Safety Promotion Research: A Public Health Approach to Accident and Injury Prevention Stockholm, Sweden 17-29 October 2001

Target group: researchers and Ph.D.students in public health sciences and those interested in injury prevention and safety promotion research. Main topics: concepts and study questions in the area of accident and injury analysis and prevention as well as safety promotion. Various methodologies and safety designs applicable in safety promotion research. Web: <http://www.ki.se/phs/education/>
Deadline for registration: 20 April 2001

For information: E-mail: moa.sundstrom@socmed.sll.se
Karolinska Institutet, Dept. of Public Health Sciences,
Div. of Social Medicine, SE-171 76 Stockholm, Sweden

Conferences

International Conference on Social Inequities in Injury Risks Paris, France 7-8 September 2000

Call for abstracts: deadline 1 July 2000
Registration: before 20 August
Secretariat: ECOSA, P.O. Box 75169
1070 AD Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Phone: +31 205114513; Fax: +31 205114510

The 7th National Safety Promotion Conference Nacka, Sweden 21-22 November 2000

Conference language: Swedish
Further information: Charlotte Eriksson, Nacka kommun, SE-131 81 Nacka
Phone: +46 8 718 93 88; Fax: +46 8 718 94 54
E-mail: charlotte.eriksson@nacka.se

<http://www.nacka.se/skadeforebyggande/konferens2000.htm>

The Tenth International Conference on Safe Communities Safe Work, Safe Play Around the Clock Anchorage, Alaska, USA 21-23 May, 2001

Call for abstracts: deadline 15 November, 2000
For further information and Registration form contact: Diana Hudson, The Alaska Injury Prevention Center, P.O. Box 210736, Anchorage, Alaska, USA 99521-0736
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