The Pediatric Injury Prevention, Education, and Research (PIPER) Program

Annual Report 2012

A collaborative initiative of:

The Colorado School of Public Health
The University of Colorado School of Medicine
Children’s Hospital Colorado
Contact Information

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

2012 was a year full of promise and progress for the Pediatric Injury Prevention, Education and Research (PIPER) program. Launched in mid-2011, this new program seeks to advance the field of injury and violence prevention through research, training and development of programs and policy.

In early 2012, we assembled a group of injury and violence researchers from the Anschutz Medical Campus and our partners. Growing to over 90 members, the Injury and Violence Research and Evaluation group provides a forum for sharing information, getting feedback on works in progress, and nurturing the collaborative spirit necessary for cutting-edge research.

As a program, PIPER recruited two new faculty members to join our team. Dawn Comstock, PhD, and Gregory Tung, MPH, PhD, started on January 1, 2013, bringing new expertise to the PIPER program and the Colorado School of Public Health.

Dawn joined the faculty as associate professor in the Department of Epidemiology, with a secondary appointment in Pediatrics (Pediatric Emergency Medicine). Her research program focuses on the epidemiology of injury among the physically active, specifically the study of sports, recreation, and leisure activity-related injuries among children and adolescents as well as the lifelong health benefits associated with an active childhood.

Greg is an assistant professor in the Department of Health Systems, Management and Policy. His interests include the use of both qualitative and quantitative methods in translational research on prevention-based policies including injury and violence prevention.

We have been working to engage multiple partners in collaborative research and program development, creating a hub of expertise within our collaborating institutions. We have reached out to practitioners in hopes of both sharing our expertise and learning from them about how best to direct research at the problems of greatest importance.

Though injury and violence remain major issues, we are optimistic that we will make a difference through our research, training, and activities to promote evidence-based policies and programs. I hope you’ll join us in building this program and supporting our efforts to improve safety for children and youth.

Sincerely,

Carol Runyan
Program Overview

The Pediatric Injury Prevention, Education and Research program was launched in 2011 to link research, training and practice to prevent child injury in Colorado, nationally and around the world. The program is a collaborative initiative of the Colorado School of Public Health, the University of Colorado School of Medicine, and Children’s Hospital Colorado.

Vision

To reduce child and adolescent injury and its outcomes in Colorado, nationally and throughout the world as a function of high-quality research and effective practice.

Mission

To increase safety through scientific discovery, evidence-based practice, policy development and training.

Goals

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<tr>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Conduct cutting-edge research on child and adolescent injury and violence issues</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Programs</td>
<td>Conduct high-quality injury and violence prevention activities in the community setting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy</td>
<td>Work to improve national, state, tribal, local and organizational policy to address injury and violence issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workforce Development</td>
<td>Train and assist professionals in public health practice applied to injury and violence prevention</td>
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Injury and Violence: Solvable Problems

Every year, injuries keep millions of children worldwide from reaching their full potentials. In the United States, injuries — including unintentional injuries and violence — are the leading cause of death for people from age 1-44.

Injuries occur from a wide range of causes, including motor vehicle crashes, falls, poisoning, child maltreatment, suicide and violence as well as injuries occurring in sports, recreational activities and the workplace. Nearly all injuries share one common element – most are preventable.

Major causes of injury vary across the lifespan. For infants, unintentional suffocation and child abuse are major concerns. Injuries to young children often occur in the home, including drowning, fires and child abuse. For school-age children, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death. Suicide, homicide and unintentional poisoning become serious threats in the teenage years, along with motor vehicle crashes. Effective prevention strategies vary by age group, setting and injury type.

Injury rates are higher in the Mountain West region compared to the rest of the United States. In Colorado alone, more than 300 children and adolescents under age 21 died as a result of injuries in 2010. Of these, the largest share of fatalities was from unintentional injury, 70 were suicides, and 42 were the result of homicide.

Deaths are just the tip of the iceberg. Nonfatal injuries resulted in about 4,000 hospitalizations, more than 20,000 calls for emergency medical services, and an estimated 160,000 outpatient visits in Colorado. Not only do these injuries add to our nation’s skyrocketing health care costs, but they can also lead to long-term disability.

Public health efforts to prevent injuries have been very successful. Through evidence-based injury prevention efforts such as policy changes, engineering innovations, and educational initiatives, we can save countless lives.

Research conducted through PIPER contributes new tools, information and strategies to keep children safe in our communities and around the world. We are working to ensure that programs and policies use the best science and most effective prevention strategies. By providing training and sharing what works to prevent injuries, PIPER is helping to create a safer world for children and youth.
# Funding Sources 2012

To launch the PIPER program, $2.27 million was committed over a three-year period, with contributions from the Colorado School of Public Health, the University of Colorado School of Medicine Dean’s Office and Department of Pediatrics, the Office of the Provost and Children’s Hospital Colorado.

Over $130,000 in additional funding was secured in 2012 from sources for the following activities:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (CDC)</th>
<th>Colorado Injury Control Research Center - Training and Education Core (subcontract)</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12/1/2011-7/31/2013</td>
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<th>National Center for Child Health and Human Development (NIH)</th>
<th>Child Maltreatment and Partner Violence Bridging the health social science gap (subcontract)</th>
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<td>9/30/2011-9/28/2013</td>
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Funding Sources 2012, continued

Indian Health Service through Econometrica, Inc.  
Evaluation of IHS-funded injury prevention programs (subcontract)  
10/1/2011-9/30/2016  
This initiative provides ongoing technical assistance and training to 33  
tribal injury programs funded through the Indian Health Service.

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (CDC)  
Consultation to SAVIR/Safe States  
This project is designed to evaluate the CDC funded state injury programs  
throughout the United States.

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (CDC)  
Harmonizing Child Injury Research Through Shared Instrumentation  
9/1/2012-2/28/2014  
In this project, we are developing an interactive catalog of data collection  
instruments used to study key topics in child and adolescent injury so as  
to facilitate more consistency in measurement across studies.

Numerous other projects have been submitted for funding and new funds have been received in 2013.
The PIPER Team

Faculty Director - Carol Runyan, MPH, PhD
As director of the PIPER program, Dr. Runyan brings over 30 years as a leader in the field of injury and violence prevention. In 1987, she co-founded the University of North Carolina Injury Prevention Research Center — a “Center of Excellence” on injury prevention — and served for over 20 years as director.

Dr. Runyan developed the PREVENT (Preventing Violence through Education, Networking and Technical assistance) program, which has trained over 900 professionals from 44 states.

In August 2011, Dr. Runyan joined the faculty of the Colorado School of Public Health as Professor of Epidemiology with secondary appointments in the Departments of Community and Behavioral Health and Pediatrics. In 2012, she was honored by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as one of the twenty most influential leaders in the field over the past twenty years.

Faculty – R. Dawn Comstock, PhD
R. Dawn Comstock joined the faculty of PIPER in January 2013 as Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology at the Colorado School of Public Health with a secondary appointment in the Department of Pediatrics.

Dr. Comstock’s research program focuses on the epidemiology of injury among the physically active, specifically the study of sports, recreation, and leisure activity-related injuries among children and adolescents as well as the life-long health benefits associated with an active childhood.

A Colorado native, Dr. Comstock received her BS from Colorado State University in Microbiology, her MS in Epidemiology from University of Iowa, and her PhD from University of California - San Diego. Dr. Comstock also served in The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) with an assignment at the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

Faculty - Gregory Tung, MPH, PhD
Gregory Tung joined the faculty of PIPER in January 2013 as Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Systems, Management and Policy at the Colorado School of Public Health.

Dr. Tung’s research interests include policy translation in public health, with an emphasis on injury prevention and tobacco control. He is generally interested in how scientific evidence and public opinion are incorporated into decision making processes with an emphasis on public policy. Dr. Tung received a PhD in public health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in 2012.
The PIPER Team, cont.

**Program Manager - Sara Brandspigel, MPH**

Sara Brandspigel oversees daily operations of the PIPER program, including program development, communications, and grants management.

Sara has eight years of experience in health and education organizations and a master's in public health with a focus on maternal and child health.

Prior to joining the PIPER program in February 2012, Sara managed education and outreach activities at the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. She previously served as development director for Heads Up, an educational enrichment program for underserved youth in Washington, DC, and project manager at the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs.

**Research Assistant - Talia Brown, MS**

Talia Brown coordinates the Harmonizing Child Injury Research project. Talia also works on program evaluations for the Community Epidemiology and Program Evaluation Group.

Talia has three years of experience in research and public health. She finished her masters of science in epidemiology in August 2012 and is a doctoral student in the epidemiology program at the Colorado School of Public Health with research interests in intentional injury.

Prior to joining PIPER, she was a research assistant at the Barbara Davis Center studying complications in type 1 diabetes. Talia also worked on community needs assessments for the Center for Public Health Practice.

**Program Assistant – Katherine Collins**

Katherine supports research and communications efforts for PIPER. She also assists in the Harmonizing Child Injury Research Project.

When Katherine is not at PIPER, she works as the Community Events Coordinator for Children’s Hospital Colorado and is a master’s student in the community and behavioral health program at the Colorado School of Public Health.

Prior to joining PIPER, she was the Public Relations Associate at Safe Kids Worldwide where her interest in injury prevention started. Additionally, Katherine served as an Account Manager for a public affairs and lobbying firm in Washington, DC.

**Note:** PIPER has funding for a third faculty position, with expertise in the development and evaluation of injury prevention interventions, to be hired in 2013.
In 2012, PIPER convened the Injury and Violence Research and Evaluation group (IVRE), a collaborative group of researchers and public health practitioners in the Denver area who share an interest in the prevention of injury and violence.

In monthly meetings, group members share research questions and network with their colleagues in the field of injury and violence. A listserv is used to share funding opportunities, resources, events and other information.

Topics have included:

- Discussion of works in progress
- Brainstorming new directions in a research area
- Sharing program development process
- Dialogue about available data and possibilities for analysis
- Exploring opportunities for collaboration

**Agenda items from 2012**

**Proposals that were under development**

**Youth suicide prevention** - Taylor Moore, PhD, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

**Youth concussion** – Joe Grubenhoff, MD, School of Medicine

**Intimate partner violence screening** – Deborah Rinehart, PhD, Denver Health

**Pediatric pre-hospital care** – Kathleen Adelgais, MD, School of Medicine

**Youth violence** – Scott Harpin, PhD, MPH, RN, College of Nursing

**Suicide prevention among older adults** – Marian Betz, MD, MPH, School of Medicine

**Obesity and injury** – Carol Runyan, PhD, MPH, School of Public Health

**Older adult falls** – Carolyn DiGuiseppi, MD, PhD, School of Public Health

**Child burn prevention** – Sabine Maguire, MD, Cardiff University School of Medicine

**Other topics**

- Enhancing the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
- Urban planning and road safety
- Gun violence
IVRE Members

Kathleen Adelgais, MD, Emergency Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Sarah Allexan, MD candidate 2016, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Amanda Amsler, University of Colorado Hospital
Lalit Bajaj, MD, MPH, Emergency Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Katie Bakes, MD, FACEP, Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Denver Health
William Betts, PhD, Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Emmy (Marian) Betz, MD, MPH, Emergency Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Ingrid Binswanger, MD, MPH, Internal Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Sara Brandspigel, MPH, Pediatric Injury Prevention, Education and Research Program
Michelle Brock, MD, Pediatric Pulmonology, Children’s Hospital Colorado
Donald Bross, JD, PhD, Director of Education and Legal Counsel, The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse, Department of Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Talia Brown, MS, Research Assistant and PhD student, Colorado School of Public Health
Kristen Carpenter, Emergency Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Katherine Casillas, PhD, The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse, Department of Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Antonia Chiesa, MD, The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse, Department of Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Jerry Clayton, PhD, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Children’s Hospital Colorado
Dawn Comstock, PhD, Epidemiology, Colorado School of Public Health
Lauren Croucher, Injury Prevention, Denver Health
Sara Culhane, JD, PhD, The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse, Department of Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Meghan Dahlin, MA, The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse, Department of Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Carolyn DiGuiseppi, MD, MPH, PhD, Epidemiology, Colorado School of Public Health
Jeanne Dise-Lewis, PhD, Psychiatry and Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Children’s Hospital Colorado
Kathryn Emery, MD, Children’s Hospital Colorado
Sharry Erzinger, MPH, DrPH, University of Colorado Denver
Bruce Evans, MD, Emergency Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Paul Frankel, PhD, Evaluation, Mental Health Center of Denver
Katie Fuenning, MS, Burn Center, University of Colorado Hospital
Barbara Gabella, MPH, Epidemiologist, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Edward Garrido, MA, PhD, The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse, Department of Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Tim Givens, MD, Pediatric Emergency Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Matthew Godleski, MD, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Cindy Goss, MA, Epidemiology, Colorado School of Public Health
Amanda Greene, MD, Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Elizabeth Greenwell, ScD, Fellow, University of Colorado Denver
Joseph Grubenhoff, MD, Pediatrics, Children’s Hospital Colorado
Ann Halbower, MD, Pulmonology-Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Simon Hambidge, MD, PhD, General Pediatrics, Denver Health
Kristine Hansen, Trauma Burn Program, Children’s Hospital Colorado
Scott Harpin, PhD, MPH, RN, Colorado School of Nursing
Jesse Hawke, PhD, EMS and Trauma Data, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Jim Helmkamp, PhD, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Bernadette Johnson, MD, Pediatrics, Children’s Hospital Colorado
Gregory Jurkovich, MD, Surgery, Denver Health
Jennifer Kelloff, MD, Kaiser Permanente Colorado
Allison Kempe, MD, MPH, Children’s Outcomes Research Program, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Morteza Khodaee, MD, MPH, Family Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Robin Kimbrough-Melton, JD, The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse, Department of Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Michael Kirkwood, PhD, Pediatric Neuropsychology, Children’s Hospital Colorado
Richard Lindrooth, PhD, Health Systems, Management and Policy, Colorado School of Public Health
Jill Litt, PhD, Environmental and Occupational Health, Colorado School of Public Health
Steve Lowenstein, MD, MPH, Emergency Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Ali Maffey, MSW, Policy and Communications, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Sabine Maguire, MD, Pediatrics, Cardiff University (visiting scholar 2012-2013)
Erin Martinez, MS, PhD, Burn Model Systems Data Coordination Center, University of Colorado Denver
David Matero, MD, Emergency Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Dennis Matthews, MD, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Children’s Hospital Colorado
Sabrina Arredondo Mattson, PhD, Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, University of Colorado Boulder
Carolyn McAndrews, PhD, College of Architecture and Planning, University of Colorado Denver
Gary Melton, PhD, The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse, Department of Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Theresa Mickiewicz, Denver Health
Taylor Moore, PhD, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Steve Moulton, MD, Pediatric Trauma and Burns Program, Children’s Hospital Colorado
Lyndsey Myers, MPH, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Lee Newman, MD, MA, Environmental and Occupational Health, Colorado School of Public Health
David Olds, PhD, Pediatrics and Prevention Resource Center, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Sourav Poddar, MD, Family Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine
IVRE Members, cont.

Aaron Provance, MD, Orthopedics, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Theresa Rapstine, BSN, RN, School Health Program, Children’s Hospital Colorado
Arleta Rewers, MD, Emergency Medicine, Children’s Hospital Colorado
Deborah Rinehart, PhD, Denver Health
Genie Roosevelt, MD, Emergency Medicine, Children’s Hospital Colorado
Carol Runyan, MPH, PhD, Pediatric Injury Prevention, Education and Research Program, Colorado School of Public Health
Desmond Runyan, MD, DrPH, The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse, Department of Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Comilla Sasson, MD, MS, Emergency Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Angela Sauaia, MD, PhD, Health Systems, Management and Policy, Colorado School of Public Health
Joy Schmitter, University of Colorado Hospital
Michael Schurr, PhD, Surgery, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Ken Scott, MPH, Mountain & Plains Education and Research Center, Colorado School of Public Health
Eric Sigel, MD, Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Marion Sills, MD, MPH, Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Dwayne Smith, MEd, MCHES, Injury Prevention, Children’s Hospital Colorado
Traci Snedden, CPNP, Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Children’s Hospital Colorado
Lorann Stallones, PhD, MPH, Psychology, Colorado State University/Epidemiology, Colorado School of Public Health
Kisty Stephens, Denver Public Health
Heather Taussig, PhD, The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse, Department of Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Gregory Tung, PhD, Health Systems, Management and Policy, Colorado School of Public Health
Alisa Velonis, Health and Behavioral Sciences, University of Colorado
Abby Waldbaum, MA, Injury Prevention, Children’s Hospital Colorado
Sam Wang, MD, Pediatric Urgent Care, Children’s Hospital Colorado
Joseph Wathen, MD, Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Children’s Hospital Colorado
Richard Zane, MD, Emergency Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Building Partnerships

PIPER draws on strengths existing within the Colorado School of Public Health as well as partnerships with the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Children’s Hospital Colorado. Our team has conducted outreach to new partners to explore areas for collaboration through meetings, joint events, and collaborative research projects. These include:

- Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, University of Colorado—Boulder
- Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health
- Children’s Health Advocacy Institute at Children’s Hospital Colorado
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Colorado Injury Control Research Center (CSU)
- Denver Health
- Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect
- Mountain and Plains Education and Research Center
- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) – Western Regional Office
- Nurse Family Partnership Program, Department of Pediatrics
- Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center, Denver Health
- Trauma program at Children’s Hospital Colorado
- University of Colorado Hospital
- Worksafe Colorado

As a new effort, PIPER continues to build partnerships with organizations and individuals engaged in injury and violence prevention work in the Mountain West region and nationally. We have consulted with staff at the Children’s Hospital Colorado on a number of activities (e.g., Safe Kids coalition, safe sleep, teen driving, child maltreatment prevention, and violence prevention) and have conducted continuing education sessions with the staff.
Teaching and Mentoring

During 2012 we assisted several students and fellows with projects on injury prevention, including practicum and capstone projects, for example, projects focused on violence prevention (Anjanette Hawkins); teen driving (Jenelle Vierzbicki); pediatric poisoning (Sam Wang, MD); and Safe Sleep (Michelle Brock, MD).

Dr. Runyan taught several courses and gave guest lectures in other courses, workshops and seminars, including Pediatric Grand Rounds, a workshop for the trauma team at Denver Health and with the Colorado Trauma Conference. She also worked with junior faculty in several departments to help them develop research on various aspects of injury and violence. This included joining a regular mentoring group organized by the Department of Emergency Medicine and the Pediatric Emergency Medicine Section of Pediatrics.
Injury & Violence Seminar Series

PIPER hosts a series of injury and violence seminars designed to ignite interest in critical topics. The following seminars were held in 2012:

**March 30**  
**Older Adult Drivers**  
Marian (Emmy) Betz, MD, MPH  
Cosponsored with the Colorado Injury Control Research Center

**May 2**  
**From Computer to Community: Translational Research via Sports Injury Surveillance**  
Dawn Comstock, PhD

**May 8**  
**The Epidemiology of Violent Behavior: Evidence from Two Cohorts**  
Jennifer Reingle, PhD

**May 11**  
**Integrating Violence Risk Intervention in the Health Care Setting**  
Eric J. Sigel, MD  
Cosponsored with the Colorado Injury Control Research Center

**May 29**  
**Translating Public Health Research and Public Support into Injury Prevention and Tobacco Control Policy**  
Gregory Tung, MPH, PhD

**May 31**  
**Priorities in Adolescent Health: Non-Suicidal Self-Injury and Suicidal Behavior**  
Lindsay Taliaferro, PhD

**June 13**  
**Promoting Health and Reducing Risk for Vulnerable Adolescents: Examples from Research with Sexual Minority and Mexican-Origin Youth Populations**  
Russell Toomey, PhD
Injury & Violence Seminar Series, cont.

July 19  Acculturation and the Risk of Violence among Hispanic Youth in the United States
Theresa Cruz, PhD

October 22  Screening and Counseling for Intimate Partner Violence in Health Care Settings
Carolyn DiGuiseppi, MD, MPH
Marguerite Salazar, Regional Director, US Department of Health and Human Services, Region VIII
Barbara Paradiso, Executive Director, Program and Center on Domestic Violence, University of Colorado Denver, School of Public Affairs
Dr. Christin Panzarella, MD, Kaiser Permanente
Nancy Olson, Deputy Director, Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV)

November 1  CAUTION: Paradigm Shift Ahead – Mobility Health
Harold (Hank) B. Weiss, PhD, MPH, MS
Professor of Preventive and Social Medicine and Director of the Injury Prevention Research Unit at the Dunedin School of Medicine at the University of Otago in New Zealand

November 29  How Strong Communities Restored My Faith in Humanity: Keeping Kids Safe
Gary Melton, PhD Professor, Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect

Cosponsored with the Colorado Injury Control Research Center and DHHS/Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Region VIII


2012 Dec;54(12):1533-1538.


NOTE: During 2012, Dr. Carol Runyan was the only faculty member supported by PIPER funds. Numerous other colleagues affiliated with the PIPER program (e.g. IVRE members) are publishing injury research, most of which can be found by visiting the Colorado PROFILES database at profiles.ucdenver.edu/.
Presentations


“Injury Prevention.” Presentation for Children’s Health Advocacy Institute Staff, May 2012. (Runyan)

“Risky Business – Improving the Safety of Teen Work in America.” Keynote Speech, Vulnerable Worker Populations Conference. Colorado State University, June 2012. (Runyan)

“Community Programs – Figuring out what works, choosing wisely and evaluating well.” Invited presentation at Colorado Trauma Conference, Breckenridge, CO, June 2012. (Runyan)


“Intervening to Prevent Injuries.” Presentation for the Denver Health Trauma Program, August 2012. (Runyan)

“Risky Business – Improving the Safety of Teen Work in America.” Presentation for WorkSafe Colorado, September 2012. (Runyan)

“Injury Prevention is No Accident: what’s the problem and what should we be doing about it.” Pediatric Grand Rounds, University of Colorado School of Medicine, November 2012. (Runyan)
As we start 2013, the PIPER Program is growing rapidly in both size and scope. We added two new faculty in January 2013, are undertaking multiple new research projects, and continue to develop our outreach, communications and training efforts.

Dr. Carol Runyan serves as part of a team designing an evaluation of state health department injury programs and another technical assistance team providing assistance and training to tribal injury programs. She is also working with Drs. Novins and Becker (Child Psychiatry) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment on a project to evaluate new methods of preventing teen suicide through interventions in the pediatric emergency department. She leads a project to compile data collection instruments used in studying child injury and is developing several projects directed at improving home safety, and strategies to prevent injuries among young workers.

Dr. Dawn Comstock brought several projects with her from her prior position at Nationwide Children’s Hospital and Ohio State University. These include CDC-funded studies of the effectiveness of state level concussion legislation on concussion rates, outcomes and compliance with return to play guidelines among young athletes; a comparison of TBI coding and epidemiology across a range of clinical pediatric settings; a comparison of clinical healthcare costs associated with TBI presenting across a range of clinical pediatric settings; and an evaluation of the impact of two popular national concussion educational interventions on concussion rates among high school athletes. Additionally Dr. Comstock brought her ongoing National High School Sports-Related Injury Surveillance System (High School RIO) to Colorado, including both the proprietary RIO internet-based data collection software and the large dataset captured by this unique surveillance system since 2005. This dataset includes over 40,000 case reports of high school sports injuries sustained during nearly 20 million athletic exposures and, based here at the Colorado School of Public Health and University of Colorado School of Medicine provides multiple opportunities for collaboration to examine injuries to young athletes. She is working with colleagues in Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine, and Children’s Hospital’s Concussion Clinic as well as colleagues at other institutions (Cincinnati Children’s, University of North Carolina, Harvard, Ohio State University, etc.) to seek funding for new research on youth sports injury prevention generally and sports-related concussions specifically.
Dr. Gregory Tung has begun working with Dr. David Olds on research exploring ways to coordinate activities between the Nurse Family Partnership Program and Child Protective Services in order to best support at-risk families and prevent child maltreatment. He has also been working with staff at Children’s Hospital Advocacy Institute to develop research related to the use of Health Impact Assessments. With colleagues in the Health Systems Management and Policy Department, Greg has been pursuing research on the effects of federal and state level policies related to tobacco and marijuana. Finally, Greg has been working with Drs. DiGuiseppi and Stallones on research addressing state level suicide prevention policy as well as university suicide prevention policies and programs.

Ms. Sara Brandspigel is coordinating PIPER’s outreach efforts to injury prevention workforce in the region and nationally. She is leading an assessment of partner organizations, including state health departments and trauma centers, to gather information about their programmatic and policy activities and opportunities for collaboration.

Multiple other faculty have come together under the aegis of the IVRE group and are pursuing scholarly work on various topics; for example, suicide prevention (Betz, DiGiuseppi), youth violence prevention (Sigel, Harpin), sports injury and concussion (Grubenhoff, Sasson, Kirkwood), gun violence (Betz, Sasson) child maltreatment (D. Runyan, Fluke, Taussig, Olds, Tung, Melton), and poisoning (Binswanger).

Over the coming year, we expect to continue to grow the program by involving more faculty, by working closely with community partners, including the Children’s Health Advocacy Institute of Children’s Hospital Colorado, to ensure good translation of research into practice and policy and to advance our goals of training multiple groups to address injury and violence prevention. We also expect to be adding another faculty member, with focus on intervention research.
Get Involved

Support our programs
Join PIPER in preventing child and adolescent injury. Through financial support, you can help us provide scholarships to graduate students studying injury, offer cutting-edge training to the injury prevention workforce, and support new discoveries through our research agenda.

Join our mailing list
At www.ucdenver.edu/piper, you can subscribe to the PIPER listserv to learn about upcoming events, activities and news.

Follow us on Twitter
Follow @PIPERcolorado to stay up to date on the latest injury-related news, events, and updates.

Become a partner
Contact Sara Brandspigel at sara.brandspigel@ucdenver.edu if you would like to partner with PIPER on research, evaluation, training or programmatic activities.