



In Honor of National Public Health Week, PHI Shares Important Research and Resources on Injury and Violence Prevention

OAKLAND, CA (April 4, 2011)—The Public Health Institute (PHI) joins organizations across the country in supporting [National Public Health Week](#) (April 4th – 10th), which is led by the American Public Health Association. This year's theme, *Safety is NO Accident: Live Injury Free*, draws much-needed attention to the importance of reducing injuries and violence in order to build healthier communities. PHI is proud to contribute to National Public Health Week by sharing some of the organization's valuable research and resources on injury and violence prevention.

"We can not expect individuals to be healthy if they are not safe," said Mary A. Pittman, DrPH, president and CEO of PHI. "Whether the danger is found in the home, the workplace or out on the road, it is clear that violence and injury are undermining the health of our communities."

National statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) show that:

- Youth violence is the second leading cause of death among young people ages 10 to 24.
- More than 2.3 million adults were treated in emergency departments in 2009 for injuries sustained in a motor vehicle crash.
- One in four adolescents reports verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual abuse from a dating partner each year.

PHI's injury and violence prevention work includes research, training, technical assistance and program implementation. Some of PHI's efforts are highlighted below. PHI encourages public health practitioners, healthcare providers, policy makers, community leaders and the public to utilize these resources to build safer, healthier communities.

- [The Safe Community Partnership \(SCP\)](#) at PHI brings together a variety of partners – including criminal justice agencies, employment training services, community and faith leaders, and gang outreach programs - to implement an evidence-based, data-driven approach to reduce serious gun-related street violence. The SCP is active in 10 California cities and has documented impressive reductions in homicides and gang-related shootings.
- PHI's [California Adolescent Health Collaborative \(CAHC\)](#) is a public-private statewide coalition that works to increase understanding and support for adolescent health and wellness in California. CAHC's report

[Teen Dating Violence: Keeping California Adolescents Safe in Their Relationships](#) outlines a comprehensive approach to preventing adolescent relationship abuse that involves educators, health care professionals and the community. CAHC conducts trainings on the Healthcare Education, Assessment, and Response Tool for Adolescent Relationships (HEART), which helps health care providers recognize and address adolescent relationship abuse. The next training will take place on April 11th in Salinas, CA. For more information, click [here](#).

- [The Alcohol Research Group \(ARG\)](#) at PHI is a multidisciplinary research center focused on conducting and disseminating research on alcohol use patterns and associated problems, including alcohol-related injuries. Dr. Cheryl Cherpitel, associate director of ARG, recently served as editor for [Alcohol and Injuries: Emergency Department Studies in an International Perspective](#), published by the World Health Organization. Based on epidemiological studies in emergency departments around the world, the book offers evidence on alcohol's association with injury, and the scope, magnitude and diversity of this association across countries and cultures.
- [PHI principal investigator Elaine Zahnd](#) developed an Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) module for the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), a general population telephone health survey of California households. Seventeen percent of adults—nearly four million Californians—reported being a victim of physical and/or sexual IPV. Among other alarming findings was that 41 percent of bisexual adults and 28 percent of gay/lesbian adults experienced IPV – compared to 17 percent of heterosexual adults.

About the Public Health Institute

[PHI](#), an independent nonprofit organization based in Oakland, California, is dedicated to promoting health, well-being and quality of life for people throughout California, across the nation and around the world. PHI's primary methods for achieving these goals include: sharing evidence developed through quality research and evaluation; providing training and technical assistance; and promoting successful prevention strategies to policymakers, communities and individuals.

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