

## **The Maryland Core Injury Prevention Program**

The DHMH Injury Prevention Program recently received the CORE VIPP grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This five-year (2011-2016) award is intended to build and support injury prevention efforts at the state level. The Injury Prevention Program will work together with the Partnership for a Safer Maryland as well as other partners, to develop and strengthen injury and violence prevention programs in the state.

To meet this goal, the DHMH and the Partnership will identify the top four injury prevention priorities for the state, and create strategic plan to effectively address these issues. Vital statistics data, hospital and emergency department discharge data and death records will be used to assess injury risks, shape intervention development, and evaluate the impact of injury and violence prevention initiatives. Mini-grants will be awarded to local health departments and/or area agencies on aging to support proven injury prevention programs such as falls prevention in older adults.

Partnership members such as the Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy and the University of Maryland School of Law, will work with DHMH help educate policy makers on evidence based policy solutions to injury problems. A state injury prevention policy plan will be developed reflecting the top four injury priorities. For more information about the Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy, click here: <http://www.jhsph.edu/injurycenter>

Maryland also received Regional Network leader (RNL) from CDC, making Maryland a leader for the CDC-designated region. This designation is intended to foster alliances between neighboring states and maximize effectiveness of injury prevention programs within a geographic area.

As a designated RNL, DHMH will provide structured assistance to other states within Health and Human Services Region 3 (DE, D.C., PA, MD, VA, and WVA) and Region 5 (IL, IN, MI MN, OH, and WI) to build capacity and share best practices. Regional collaboration by these states will facilitate sharing of knowledge, technology and data, ensure coordinated global planning, and facilitate the dissemination of research and promising practices.

DHMH will work with the Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy and the Mid-Atlantic Public Health Training Center (MAPHTC) to provide face to face and virtual training, technical assistance and networking opportunities for states within the Maryland designated regions.

Evaluation of CORE VIPP grant activities will identify barriers to successful injury prevention programs in order to improve program outcomes and impact. Working together in a systems approach, the DHMH and the Partnership aim to make injury prevention methods and habits a part of the daily life of all Marylanders.

