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4075 Research Transition Facility
8308 - 114 Street
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
T6G 2E1
Phone: 780-492-6019
Fax: 780-492-7154

E-mail: acicr@ualberta.ca
Internet: www.acicr.ualberta.ca

Government of Alberta ■

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Alberta government can do more to keep kids safe

Provided by Canadian Paediatric Society

All provinces and territories need to make better use of public policy to protect and promote the health and well-being of Canada's children and youth, according to the Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS). And while Alberta is a leader in areas such as publicly-funded immunization programs, the province still has a long way to go when it comes to injury prevention.

Last November, the CPS released the third edition of a status report that rates how well provinces and territories are using legislation and public policy to safeguard their youngest citizens.

"Currently, there is a piecemeal approach to keeping children and youth healthy and safe in Canada—and it's putting kids at risk," says Dr. Robert Moriarty, an Edmonton paediatrician who represents Alberta on the CPS Board of Directors. "Since our last report in 2007, advances have been made in certain areas, but not one province or territory shines overall."

Since 2007, Alberta ratings in injury prevention haven't improved. The report says the Alberta government still has to improve child and youth safety in areas like bicycle helmet legislation, all-terrain vehicle and snowmobile safety, and booster seat legislation.

"Several provinces, including British Columbia and Nova Scotia have made progress in enacting legislation to help protect children and youth from injury," said Marie Adèle Davis, CPS Executive Director. "Alberta is still in a position to do better."

Strong legislation in injury prevention can net huge gains. In provinces with bicycle helmet legislation, related injuries have been reduced by 25 per cent. Yet not only is there a lack of harmonized legislation

across the country, even within provinces and territories there is no consistent approach to injury prevention.

For years, experts have been calling on the federal government to implement a national injury prevention strategy—a comprehensive plan with communications and outreach initiatives, legislation at all government levels, a national surveillance system, and research into prevention and program evaluation. In part, because of the absence of such a strategy, provinces and territories are missing opportunities to protect children and youth from preventable harm.

The report, which compares provinces and territories in areas such as health promotion, disease prevention, and injury prevention, also includes an assessment of several federal government programs and policies. While legislation and public policy cannot address every child and youth health issue, there are many areas where government action is critical, where it can save lives. However, as the report highlights, all too often the needs of children and youth don't rise to the top of the public policy agenda.

The CPS is calling on all governments to take action on evidence-based policies and interventions to address the health and safety of children. Governments must develop mechanisms to systematically evaluate and assess all policies and programs that affect children and youth—regardless of what ministry or department develops them.

To learn more about *Are We Doing Enough?* or to request a copy, visit www.cps.ca and follow the links to Advocacy.

Updates, news and resources

ACICR welcomes new staff

Jessica McKee is the new Trauma Epidemiologist with the Centre. She will coordinate and manage the Alberta Trauma Registry. Welcome, Jessica!

CICF Cycle 11 Grants Announced

ACICR is pleased to announce Community Injury Control Fund Cycle 11 grant support for 2010 – 2011 injury prevention projects. Larger grants up to a maximum of \$15,000 and smaller grants up to \$4,000 are available. Projects can address locally identified injury prevention problems in communities or key priorities – suicide, falls, traffic related injuries, and poisoning. The deadlines for larger grant applications are June 1 and November 1, 2010. Small grant applications may be submitted at any time. Updated application and support documents are available on the ACICR website at www.acicr.ca/programs-services/funding-opportunities/a-cicr-community-injury-control-fund or through the Grant Program Coordinator at 780-492-9766 or cicf@ualberta.ca.

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

The Government of Alberta is providing \$715,000 to Alberta's agricultural societies to help promote farm safety in the province. All eligible agricultural societies will receive a payment of \$2,500 to facilitate farm safety training in their community. For more information, go to www.alberta.ca/acn/201003/279926294CD1E-F50E-7B10-3E11B0DE8A530B9C.html.

Safe Kids Week 2010 - Got Wheels? Get a Helmet!

May 31st - June 5, 2010

Every year during Safe Kids Week, hundreds of community organizations across the country join Safe Kids Canada to focus attention on preventing injuries to children. Safe Kids Week is Safe Kids Canada's largest annual public awareness program designed to help reduce the frequency and severity of preventable childhood injuries, the leading cause of death and disability of Canadian children.

Head injuries are the leading cause of serious injury and death to kids on wheels. This year's campaign - their fourteenth - will emphasize education, engineering and enforcement solutions

to reduce head injuries and fatalities for children under 14.

Register as a Safe Kids Week partner to receive more information about helmet use for wheeled activities as well as access to a special discount program with Bell Helmets. These helmets can be purchased for use in your community, as prizes, or for re-sale, however you see fit.

To register as a partner and to find out more about Safe Kids Week and helmet safety, visit www.safekidscanada.ca.

Introduction to Public Health Surveillance

June 7 - 11, 2010

Public health surveillance is one of the pillars of public health and is about the provision of evidence to support and evaluate public health decisions. This five day course will cover the principles of public health surveillance and provide students with the knowledge necessary to design and implement a surveillance system.

The course is designed for front-line public health staff, especially those with little or no experience in Epidemiology, and will have an applied focus. It will be of interest to nurses, health inspectors, physicians, health system managers, health system planners, and policymakers. It will cover the fundamentals of planning, implementing and evaluating surveillance systems for communicable and non-communicable diseases, injury, and risk factors. It will also provide practical knowledge in the use of modeling, geographic information systems, and communication and dissemination.

Faculty for the course are from:

- Alberta Health and Wellness
- Alberta Health Services
- McMaster University
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Public Health Agency of Canada

- University of Alberta, Faculty of Nursing
- University of Alberta, School of Public Health
- University of Calgary, Faculty of Medicine

Course content:

- Definition and history of public health surveillance
- Planning, managing, and evaluating surveillance systems
- Communicable disease surveillance systems
- Non-communicable disease surveillance systems
- Injury surveillance
- Health indicators
- Communication and dissemination
- Geographic information systems
- Syndromic surveillance
- Information systems

The course fee is \$550 which covers tuition, the textbook and supplies.

For more information, contact Ashley Orleski, Program Coordinator, Alberta Centre for Injury Control & Research, School of Public Health at ashley.orleski@ualberta.ca or visit www.publichealth.ualberta.ca/surveillance_10.cfm.

72 hours: Is your family prepared?

Emergency Preparedness Week, May 2 - 8, 2010

Provided by Alberta Emergency Management Agency

How long can your family survive without outside assistance? If an emergency happens in your community, it may take emergency workers some time to reach you. You should be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for a minimum of 72 hours.

What kinds of risks do we face in Alberta?

Although the consequences of various disasters can be similar, knowing the risks in your region can help you better prepare. Across Canada, we face a number of hazards, such as blizzards, tornadoes and wildfires. In addition to natural disasters, there are other types of hazards, such as power outages and industrial or transportation incidents.

In Alberta a tornado can strike quickly with significant damage. Wildfires can threaten communities and restrict movement. Heavy rains can cause significant overland flooding. We all need to prepare for all hazards.

Won't the government take care of my family?

In Alberta, while municipalities respond to local emergencies, it is vital to the community that you and your family are prepared to be on your own for the first 72 hours. It can take some time for emergency workers to reach you. Emergency services will first attend to those in need of lifesaving assistance. Even if you are not injured, you need to make sure you have the supplies and food you need to survive. By being prepared to support yourself and your family for the first 72 hours, you free up emergency workers to assist those who have been injured.

The Government of Alberta is also there to help. The Alberta Emergency Management Agency coordinates the efforts of the government to assist Alberta communities to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from major emergencies and disasters.

Make a plan for your family

Every Alberta household needs an emergency plan. It will help you and your family know what to do in case of an emergency. Take 20 minutes to make your plan with your family.

Your family may not be together when an emergency occurs. Plan how to meet or how to contact one another. Discuss what you would do in different situations.

Disasters often cause confusion and distress; so, it is important to take the time now to know the hazards and the risks to better prepare yourself and your family.

Use the list below to check hazards that exist in your community. This will help you make a more specific emergency plan for your family and home.

- Blackouts
- Proximity to dangerous goods route
- Earthquakes
- Floods
- Proximity to major industrial site
- Infectious disease outbreaks
- Severe weather
- Landslides or avalanches
- Tornadoes
- Wildfires

For more information on hazards in Alberta, contact your municipality's director of emergency management or Alberta Emergency Management Agency at 780-422-9000 (Dial 310-0000 for toll-free access outside Edmonton) or visit www.aema.alberta.ca.

CALENDAR

Motorcycle and Bicycle Safety Awareness Month - May
Alberta Safety Council
Phone: 780-462-7300
Website: www.safetycouncil.ab.ca

National Summer Safety Week
Canada Safety Council
May 1-7, 2010
Phone: 613-739-1535
Website: www.safety-council.org

North American Occupational Safety and Health Week
Make It Home Safe
May 2-8, 2010
Website: www.naosh.ca

Red Cross Water Safety Week
Canadian Red Cross
June 1-7, 2010
Phone: 780-423-2680
Website: www.redcross.ca

Atlantic Collaborative on Injury Prevention 2010 Conference
June 17-18, 2010
St. John's, NL
Email: jheatley@acip.ca
Website: www.acip.ca

National Drowning Prevention Week
Lifesaving Society Alberta & Northwest Territories
July 17-24, 2010
Phone: 780-415-1755
Website: www.lifesaving.org

2010 British Columbia Injury Prevention Conference
BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit
November 8-10, 2010
The Coast Plaza Hotel & Suites
Vancouver, BC
Email: conference2010@cw.bc.ca
Website: www.injuryresearch.bc.ca/categorypages.aspx?catid=6&catname=BC Injury Prevention Conference

All-terrain vehicle (ATV) deaths, Alberta

Over the past 8 years from 2002 to 2009, there have been 113 ATV-related deaths.

Of those, 85 per cent (96 deceased) were drivers, 10 per cent were passengers (11 deceased), 3 of the deceased were unloading/loading an ATV and another 3 were pedestrians struck by an ATV.

Of the 96 deceased drivers, 86 per cent (83 deceased) were tested for alcohol consumption.

Of the 83 drivers tested, 55 per cent (46 drivers) tested positive for alcohol consumption. The remaining 45 per cent had no alcohol detected.

Of the 46 drivers who tested positive, all of them were males.

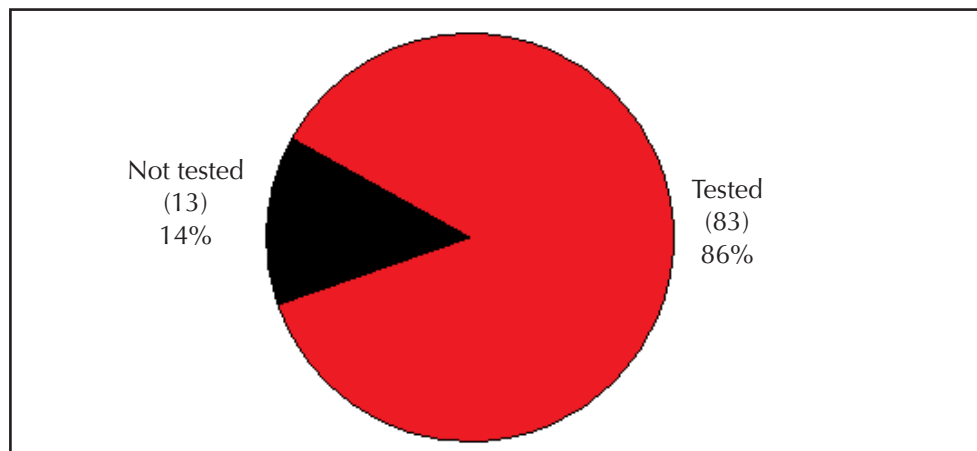
Of the 46 drivers who tested positive, 72 per cent were over the legal limit to operate a motor vehicle in Alberta (0.8 grams/litre blood alcohol content).

The highest recorded result was 4.4 grams/litre, which is more than 5 times the legal limit.

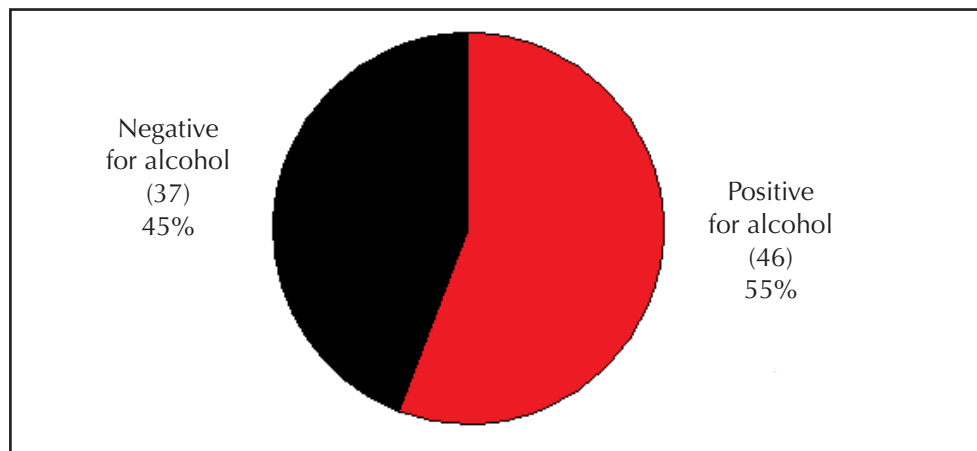
Note: ATVs do not include off-road utility vehicles (e.g. Rhino, Prowler, etc.)

All-terrain vehicle-related deaths, driving and alcohol involvement, Alberta, 2002-2009

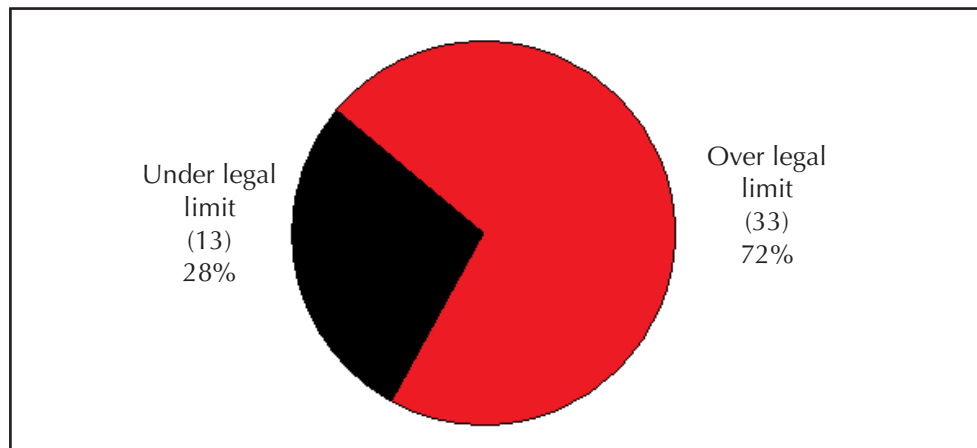
ATV drivers tested for alcohol consumption, Alberta, 2002-2009



ATV-drivers testing positive for alcohol consumption, Alberta, 2002-2009



ATV-drivers testing over the legal limit, Alberta, 2002-2009



Source: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Alberta, Canada

Note: Testing includes those performed at Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

“Legal limit” refers to the legal limit to operate a motor vehicle in Alberta (0.8 grams/litre blood alcohol content.)