

of injury for seniors, followed by transport (e.g., motor vehicle and pedestrian).

The report presents patterns of emergency department visits and hospitalizations for a variety of factors, such as age, sex, month of admission, cause of injury and discharge status. Injury patterns are broken down by region and Local Health Integration Network.

With the proportion of seniors expected to nearly double in Ontario by 2031, the report concludes that unless concerted efforts are made to prevent injury, the province will need another 1,000 acute care beds by then to care for all its hospitalized, injured seniors.

Two sources of data were used: emergency department data from the National Ambulatory Care Reporting System and acute care hospitalization data from the Canadian Institute for Health Information's Discharge Abstract Database. The report was produced by the OIPRC, hosted by SMARTRISK, with funding and in collaboration with, the Ontario Public Health Association and the Government of Ontario.

The report is available at www.OnInjuryResources.ca.

How to get involved

Some of you raised in your OSN evaluation comments that you might like to

submit a story sometime but weren't sure how to do so. If there's something going on in your area that's worth a story – a great new program, resource or study, a wonderful community collaboration, an exciting evaluation – e-mail the editor at osn@smartrisk.ca. You can write a story yourself (which will be edited, so it needn't be perfect) or be an interview subject for the story, if you'd prefer not to write it. Or just send along a couple of notes, with suggestions about who to contact. Thanks!

Receive OSN by PDF

If you would prefer to receive an e-mailed PDF (and a text version) of OSN instead of a paper copy, e-mail osn@smartrisk.ca with "Change OSN to PDF" in the subject line.

Current and back issues of OSN are online at www.OnInjuryResources.ca and www.smartrisk.ca



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ONTARIO STAKEHOLDERS

NEWS

MAY/JUNE 2007

Featuring...

- Evaluation highlights.....
- OIPC update.....
- Hold, Follow, Watch.....
- Seniors injury report.....
- Getting involved in OSN.....

Thanks for your help in evaluating OSN

Seventy-four of you participated in our newsletter evaluation: 96% of you find the information very or somewhat useful and 61% pass OSN along to colleagues. Your favourite parts are news on injury prevention programs and updates on injury prevention issues.

Those who receive the PDF version will note the addition of a text-only e-mailed OSN, courtesy of a suggestion from the evaluation. Congratulations to Denise Polgar who won a free registration to OIPC 2007 for participating.

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OIPC program offers something for everyone

The 2007 Ontario Injury Prevention Conference is just weeks away. Don't miss out - register today.

The conference has something for everyone, from keynote speakers, networking and exhibitor opportunities, panel discussions, concurrent sessions focusing on the conference streams, the Road Safety Luncheon and great entertainment.

Keynote speakers include Dr. Wayne Hammond of Resiliency Canada, Dave Jones of Turtle Concepts and Peter Levesque of the Knowledge Mobilization Consultancy.

In line with the conference theme, Preserving Our People: Strategies Designed for Life, we offer sessions on intentional injury and on injury prevention in First Nations' communities. The complete conference program is available at www.oipc.org.

We look forward to welcoming you to Thunder Bay, June 3-5, where practitioners from Ontario and beyond, and from various sectors will gather to share innovative thinking and injury prevention successes and future challenges. See you there!

Hold, Follow, Watch lands in Waterloo region

The Kitchener Record recently ran an article on the Hold, Follow, Watch Falls Prevention Program launched by the Region of Waterloo Public Health. With a 67,000 circulation, many newspaper readers heard the message that supervision is key to preventing children's fall injuries, yet it's not "one size fits all." The newspaper notes, "The program asks parents to consider their children's abilities, how impulsive they are, how well they obey rules and whether their environment is safe. The answers to these questions help to determine whether parents hold onto their children, follow at arm's reach, or watch their children as they play."

Adapted from a similar program at the Windsor Essex County Health Unit, Sharon Michael explains that this program was designed to help staff and professionals who work with people who don't speak English as a first language, and newcomers to Canada. Immigrants make up a fifth of the Waterloo region's population and 40% are 19 and under when they immigrate.

The program uses a supervision model of falls prevention, she says. How closely parents and caregivers supervise children

should vary depending on the child's physical health, social competence and risk-taking behaviour (Flavin et al, BMC Public Health, 2006).

Responding to a body of research that indicates the importance of addressing falls among children in Waterloo Region, the program's prevention priorities include: supervision, access to hazards, falls from a height and anticipating other risks for injury. Original source materials were adapted and a resource toolkit, multi-language posters, bus advertising, display and fact sheet were created.

The project included a telephone survey of community partners to assess training needs, presentations and training to staff and community agencies, a public media campaign and ongoing informational displays to the public. A focus group with staff was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness and provide information regarding ongoing training needs.

Collaboration and communication between divisions within Public Health in Waterloo has made the launch a success; however ongoing training and increased public awareness is required.

Projected future applications include work with local peer workers and com-

munity partners who work with people who do not speak English as a first language or newcomers to Canada.

For more information, contact Sharon Michael, RN, at (519) 883-2008 x 5316.

OIPRC releases new seniors' injury report

The Ontario Injury Prevention Resource Centre releases a new report this month, Injuries among Seniors in Ontario, to provide data for those working to prevent injuries. Key findings include:

- In 2004/05, Ontario's emergency departments had over 1.3 million visits due to injury. Adults 65 and older accounted for 11%, or more than 146,000 visits.
- There were a total of 76,444 injury hospitalizations in Ontario during 2004/05. Seniors accounted for 40% of these, or almost 31,000 injury hospitalizations.
- Thus, every four minutes, at least one senior visits an emergency department with an injury. Every 20 minutes, at least one senior is hospitalized with an injury and on any given day, seniors who have been hurt occupy more than 1,000 acute care beds in Ontario hospitals.
- Falls were by far the most common type