The Ontario Regional Injury Data Report & the Media
Central West Region

Description and Background Information:

The Ontario Injury Prevention Resource Centre (OIRPC), operated by Parachute, has released the Ontario Regional Injury Data Report for Central West Ontario, which provides the most up-to-date and detailed description of the causes of injury in the Central West region of the province.

This report is a follow up to the Ontario Injury Data Report released in 2012, which provided data for the province as a whole, as well as local data for each of the 36 Public Health Units (PHUs). With the regional version of the report, injury prevention practitioners can now access data for the entire central west region. This will allow practitioners to determine regional priorities and will also promote collaboration on injury prevention programs and campaigns.

Included in the Ontario Regional Injury Data Report are emergency room visits due to injury (a total of 468,274 ER visits in Central West Ontario between 2007 - 2009); hospitalizations due to injury (a total of 26,686 hospital admissions in Central West Ontario between 2007 – 2009) and deaths from injury (a total of 3,496 deaths in the Central West region between 2001 and 2005). The Central West region includes the following PHUs: Haldimand-Norfolk, Brant, Niagara, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph, Hamilton, Waterloo, and Halton.

Key Messages:

• Injury is the leading cause of death for Canadians aged 1 to 44 (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2013).
• There is a widespread misconception that injuries are accidents, or ‘unavoidable acts of fate,’ but in fact, injuries are causally related to specific events and risk factors and thus, they are predictable and preventable.
• The Ontario Regional Injury Data Report provides practitioners with the most up-to-date data on the causes of injury in each Ontario region, allowing for regional priority setting and collaborative action to prevent injuries before they happen.
• As a follow up to 2012’s Ontario Injury Data Report that provided data specific to each of the 36 Public Health Units in the province, the regional version of the report contains amalgamated data for the broader region, allowing injury prevention practitioners to address regional priorities.

Key Statistics:

• Injuries due to falls were the most common cause of emergency room visits and hospital admissions in Central West Ontario between 2007 and 2009, resulting in 149,693 emergency room visits and 15,444 hospital admissions.
• The leading cause of death due to injury between 2001 and 2005 in Central West Ontario was falls.
• 78% of fall-related deaths in Central West Ontario were among adults over the age of 75.
• 60% of deaths by suicide in the Central West region occurred among those aged 25 – 54.