



Safe Communities Key Messages

- There are more than 187,000 deaths from injuries every year. That's one person, every three minutes. And each one is preventable. The Safe Communities America program at the National Safety Council is the only U.S.-based accreditation program that supports and recognizes communities across the U.S. that make a commitment to improving safety for their residents.
- Becoming a Safe Community has many benefits:
 - It can help reduce the incidences and costs of injuries
 - promote health and safety for the residents
 - leverages and streamlines community resources
 - creates access to experts and other ideas and resources to help strengthen the community
 - and it enhances community pride by being recognized as a community committed making sure everyone has a safe place to live and work.
- A Safe Community is driven by a community coalition that prioritizes safety by bringing people together in a coordinated way to improve the quality of life for everyone in the community. The community can be defined as a municipality, a campus, a district, a region – any group that shares a designated geographical area.
- The Safe Communities model is a long standing approach to reducing preventable injuries and deaths. It works by engaging local partners who care about safety who use local data to identify their issues and make a plan to address them.
- Within each community is a network of people, organizations and institutions that plays a vital role in keeping one another safe. These networks include representatives from law enforcement, fire departments, schools, public health agencies, businesses, faith-based organizations, healthcare providers, citizen groups and other safety advocates. They focus on the issues that cause the most preventable injuries and deaths: motor vehicle crashes, drug poisonings, older adult falls, workplace injuries, suicide, violence and enhancing emergency preparedness.
- There are four key criteria for becoming a Safe Community.
 - Community leaders and advocates must work together and collaborate to improve the quality of life in the community
 - They must **collect and examine community injury data** to set priorities
 - They must incorporate effective strategies to address the leading causes of injury



- They must use sound methods to evaluate and measure their progress
- Any community that has a core group committed to improve safety can contact the National Safety Council for more information or go to safecommunitiesamerica.org
- Safe Communities America is a founding member of the Pan Pacific Safe Communities Network, an international network of communities who engage local partners that care about safety in order to reduce injuries and save lives.