

Erie County Safe Communities Application
to Become a Member of the Safe Community Network for International
Designation as a Safe Community by the WHO Collaborating Centre on
Community Safety Promotion.

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View of the City of Erie's Bayfront, taken from the
BiCentennial Tower on Dobbins Landing
Photo Source: Wikipedia

Erie County Safe Communities Application

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Description of Erie County, Pennsylvania

Erie County is located in northwestern Pennsylvania on the south-central shore of Lake Erie. Ashtabula County, Ohio forms its western boundary, Chautauqua County, New York and Warren County, Pennsylvania mark its eastern boundary, and Crawford County Pennsylvania Lies to the south. Erie County measures 812.6 square miles, and includes a mix of urban, suburban and rural communities that radiate outward from the City of Erie, including 167,634 acres of farmland.

Within Erie County there are 38 municipalities, including 2 cities, 22 townships, and 14 boroughs. The City of Erie is the County's largest city with 103,650 residents, accounting for 37.1% of the total county population. The City of Erie serves as the County seat, and is the fourth largest city in Pennsylvania (behind Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Allentown). Approximately 80% of the County is urban/suburban, and 20% is rural.



Looking from a wider view, Erie County is situated directly between Cleveland, Ohio (99 miles), Buffalo, New York (96 miles), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (127 miles), and Lake Erie.



Erie County's location in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:



Erie County's location in the United States:



Erie County Government

Erie County is governed by a home-rule charter that provides for three branches of government—executive, legislative, and judiciary. Elected officials include a County Executive, a 7-member County Council, and a 9-member Court of Common Pleas supported by 16 district magisterial judges.

The remaining elected officials of the executive branch are the Erie County Controller, Erie County Coroner, Erie County District Attorney, Erie County Sheriff, and Erie County Clerk. The County Executive appoints a chief public defender to the Erie County Public Defender's Office and members of a Criminal Justice Advisory Board.

Erie County Economy

Erie, Pennsylvania is the Commonwealth's primary access point to Lake Erie, the Great Lakes, and the Saint Lawrence Seaway. The city developed first as a maritime center after the American Revolution, as a railroad hub during the great American westward expansion, and as an important manufacturing center during the Industrial Revolution. Erie's largest employer is General Electric Transportation Systems, a manufacturer of locomotives.

Today smaller-scale steel and plastics manufacturers, as well as health care, insurance, tourism and recreation have emerged as Erie's new diverse mix of key industries. More than 25% of jobs are in manufacturing. Also, more than ten percent of the nation's plastic injection molding is done in Erie; possibly due to the fact that four of the nation's top 50 plastic companies are located here.

Erie has also become an emerging center for biofuels and environmental research. Erie Biofuels, located on the former Hammermill Paper plant, began producing biodiesel in fall 2007.

This region (Erie County and its neighboring counties in Ohio and New York) also grows grapes and produces the third largest amount of wine in the United States.

Erie County's top employers in 2007 were GE Transportation, Hamot Medical Center, Erie Indemnity Company (Erie Insurance), St. Vincent Health Center, and Pennsylvania State Government. Other major employers include the County of Erie, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, LECOM Health and Wellness Center, Blair Corp., Bliley Electric Co., Erie Homes for Children and Adults, Edinboro University, Penn State University, The Behrend Campus (Penn State), Gannon University, Catholic Diocese of Erie, the Northwest Tri County Intermediate Unit, Gertrude A. Barber Center, Lord Corporation, Mercyhurst College, Modern Industries Inc., National Fuel, Port Erie Plastics, Smith Meter Inc., Snap-Tite Inc; Time Warner Cable, Penelec, Telatron Marketing Group Inc., Times Publishing Co. Inc., Verizon, and Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Based on the percent of jobs, the five leading industries in Erie County are manufacturing, health care and social assistance, retail trade, accommodation and food services, and administrative and waste services. The civilian labor force numbered 139,600 in 2007, with an overall unemployment rate of 4.8%.

Population Characteristics of Erie County

Tables for this section are included in Appendix A

Erie County's 2008 estimated population was 279,175 residents, and included 137,197 males and 141,978 females. The median age was 38.3, with nearly 23% of the population under age 18, 63% between ages 18 and 64, and 14% age 65 and over. [Table A-1](#)

Racial and Ethnic Composition

In 2008, 91.1% of Erie County's population was white, 6.7% was black or African-American, 0.8% was Asian, and 1.5% was classified as "other race." Approximately 2.6% of residents were Hispanic or Latino (of any race). [Table A-2](#)

The five leading reported ancestries of Erie County residents are German, Irish, Polish, Italian, and English.

Income

Incomes tend to be lower in Erie County compared to Pennsylvania and the rest of the United States. In 2008, per capita income in Erie County was \$22,847, compared to \$27,280 in Pennsylvania and \$27,589 in the rest of the United States. The median household income was \$44,247, compared to \$50,713 in Pennsylvania and \$52,029 in the rest of the United States.

The median family income was \$57,363, compared to \$63,316 in Pennsylvania and \$63,366 in the United States. [Table A-3](#)

Education

Erie County residents graduate from high school at higher rates than the rest of Pennsylvania and the United States as a whole, especially in the 18-24 year age range. In 2008, an estimated 93.4% of Erie County residents ages 18 to 24 possessed a high school education or higher, compared to 86.7% of Pennsylvanians and 83% of all Americans. High school graduation rates for people age 25 and over in Erie County are similar to, but still higher than, the state and the U.S. at 89.3%, 87.5%, and 85.0% respectively. [Table A-4](#)

Disability Status

Rates of disability in Erie County are higher than Pennsylvania and the United States. In 2008, an estimated 16.6% of the population of Erie County over the age of 5 years was classified as having a disability, compared to 14.1% in Pennsylvania and 12.9% in the United States.

In the 5 to 17 year age group, 8.7% was classified as having a disability, compared to 6.1% in Pennsylvania and 5.2% in the U.S. Low cognitive functioning was the most prevalent disability reported for ages 5 to 17 years.

Among those ages 18 to 64, rate of disability was 13.3% in 2008, compared to 10.9% of Pennsylvanians and 10.2% of Americans. The most prevalent disability in this age group was related to their ability to walk/move around (ambulatory).

Of the Erie County population over age 65, 41.7% have one or more disability, compared to 37.0% in Pennsylvania, and 38.1% in the U.S. The most prevalent disability in this age group is related to their ability to walk/move around (ambulatory), followed by difficulties related to independent living and hearing. [See Table A-5](#)

Injury Patterns in Erie County

[Tables for this section are included in Appendix B](#)

In Erie County, unintentional injuries were the leading cause of death for people between the ages of 1 and 44 and the fifth leading cause of death for all ages for the three year period 2004 through 2006 ([Table B-1](#)). Based on hospital discharge data from 2005, the three most prevalent causes of unintentional injury were falls, poisoning, and motor vehicle crashes ([Table B-4](#)).

In comparison, unintentional injury was also the fifth leading cause of death in both Pennsylvania and the United States for the year 2006. ([Tables B-2, B-3](#))

When evaluating age groups, unintentional injury was the number one cause of death for ages 1 through 44 in Erie County and was the third leading cause of death for ages 45 through 64 surpassed only by cancer and heart disease. ([Table B-1](#)). Similar rankings can be seen for both Pennsylvania and the United States. ([Tables B-2, B-3](#))

Suicide was the second leading cause of death for ages 15 to 24 and the fourth leading cause of death among 25 to 44 year olds for the years 2004 through 2006. Homicide was the fifth leading cause of death for ages 25 to 44 during this same time frame. (Table B-1)

Unintentional injuries do not always result in death but may be severe enough to require hospitalization. In 2005, 3,003 Erie County residents were hospitalized and survived unintentional injuries. Falls resulted in the hospitalization of 1,261 Erie County residents. This accounted for 42% of all injury hospitalizations with subsequent discharge and ranked first among ages 0 to 14 and 45 to 75+. Fifty-six percent of injury hospitalizations among 65 to 74 year olds and 75% of injury hospitalizations among 75+ were due to falls. (Table B-4)

Poisoning resulted in the hospitalization of 473 Erie County residents in 2005. This accounted for 16% of all injury hospitalizations with discharge and ranked first for ages 15 to 44, second for ages 0 to 5, 45 to 64, and 75+, and third for ages 5 to 14 and 65 to 74. (Table B-4)

Seven percent of all injury hospitalizations in Erie County in 2005 were due to motor vehicle transportation occupant accidents. This ranked second among ages 15 to 24 and 65 to 74 and third for ages 25 to 64 and 75+. Motorcyclist injury hospitalization ranked fifth for ages 25-44. (Table B-4) For 2007, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation reported a total of 1,422 injury crashes in Erie County, not all of which required hospitalization.

Injury due to some type of physical contact excluding a vehicle or machinery (struck by) accounted for 3% of all injury hospitalizations and ranked second for ages 5 to 14, fourth for ages 65 to 74, and fifth for ages 0 to 5 and 15 to 24. (Table B-4)

3% of all injury hospitalizations with discharge in Erie County in 2005 were due to cutting and piercing. This ranked fourth for ages 5 to 64 and is higher than rankings for PA. (Tables B-4, B-5)

Unique to children ages 0 to 5 was injury hospitalization due to fire/flame and hot objects. These accounted for 19% of all injury hospitalizations in this age group and ranked third and fourth respectively. (Table B-4)

Intentional firearm related injuries are a growing concern. From 2001 to 2003, 60 Erie County residents were hospitalized as a result of these injuries. Of 67 counties in Pennsylvania, Erie County ranks ninth for the number of hospitalizations due to firearm injuries by intent.

In addition to hospitalization, accidents can affect individuals after discharge. Some may experience disability as a result of the injury and may incur medical and rehabilitation expenses. The total cost of injury in Erie County cannot be measured only by the number of deaths, hospitalizations, disabilities, or financial ramifications. The true cost of injury must also include the lasting effects on the quality of life for those injured as well as their families. In this context, any serious injury is a burden.

Example of a recent project involving local stakeholders

Safe Kids Erie and the Erie County Department of Health recorded four SIDS deaths during calendar year 2008. The Safe Communities Coordinator approached Saint Vincent Health Center Social Work Department to attend the first annual Safe Sleep Summit in Pittsburgh, PA, and to apply for a chapter to launch in Erie, PA. Following the training, Saint Vincent and Safe Kids Erie worked in concert with the director of nursing, and the director of health education at

the Erie County Department of Health to devise a plan to launch the *Cribs for Kids Campaign* Chapter in Erie County. Contacts were made with all of the local hospitals and home health care agencies. Saint Vincent Health Center stepped up to chair the campaign, lead the volunteers, secure funding and create the safety brochures, manuals and handouts.

Saint Vincent provided funding through the Children's' Miracle Network and the Erie County Department of Health matched the funds for the first two years.

Through an aggressive education campaign, we partnered with local TV and radio stations to heighten awareness about SIDS prevention. One local television station offered to create a PSA and to air it four times daily for sixty days. This was the lynch pin to our success. We logged over seventy calls daily during that time frame. We have been able to provide professional training, individual education and safety resources for mothers in need.

To qualify for our program, an emergency need must be established, WIC guidelines must be met for program entry, home nurses or health care staff must have on site visits, demonstrate and teach crib safety, and follow up to ensure ongoing proper use of the crib and safety for the baby.

To date we have been able to provide over 100 cribs to low income and needy parents and anticipate a reduction in SIDS deaths in our county as we continue with individual education, distribution of safety devices and follow up with parents and caregivers.

Criteria 1: Partnerships and Collaborations

A. The Safe Communities Erie Coalition

Although the Erie County Safe Communities Coalition came together in 2008, the members have been working collaboratively together since the early 1990's. The Coalition includes community partners from both the public and private sectors. The Erie County Department of Health currently serves as the lead agency for Safe Communities Erie. Member agencies and representatives are listed below.

Safe Communities Erie Members and the Sector They Represent		
Member Organization	Sector	Representative
Adagio	Health Care	Melissa Montero
ARC of Erie County	Senior Citizens	Jean Theis
Attorney General Office	State Government/Law Enforcement	Elaine Surma, Tom Corbett
Babies R Us	Retail	Brooke Salyers
Booker T. Washington Center	Community Organization	Shantel Hilliard
City of Erie	Mayor's Office	Joe Sinnott, Mayor
City of Erie Fire Department	City Government/Fire Service	Guy Santone, Tony Pol
Community Focus Group	Special Needs Children	Rebecca Ireson
County of Erie – County Council	County Government	Carol Loll
Crime Victim Center	Private Non-Profit	Angela Porfilio, Sue Porowski
Earthforce	Private Non-Profit	Sister Pat Lupo, Margarita Dangel
Emergency Preparedness	County Government	Rich Knecht, RN
Erie County Care Management	County Government/Case Management	Charles Barber, Esq
Erie County Dept of Health	County Government/Health	Andy Glass, Janet Vogt, Valerie Bukowski, Jeff Quirk, Ph.D., Rich Knecht
Erie County Office of Children & Youth	County Government/Children & Youth	Cindra Vallone
Erie County Dept. of Public Safety	County Government/Public Safety	Joe Weindorf, Ann Bloxdorf
Erie County District Attorney's Office	County Government/Law Enforcement	Jack Daneri, District Attorney
Erie County Sheriff's Department	County Government/Law Enforcement	Bob Merski, Sheriff
Erie Insurance Group	Business	Mary Ann Marchant
Gannon University	Education	Parris Baker, Ph. D.
General Electric	Business	Scott Sonneborn, Charles Deemer
Hamot Medical Center Shock/Trauma	Health Care	Pat Gifford
Healthy Youth Development	Penn State Behrend	Tammy Bartasavitch, Carl Kallgren, Ph.D.

Safe Communities Erie Members and the Sector They Represent		
Member Organization	Sector	Representative
Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield	Health Care	Jim Martin
Hispanic American Council of Erie (HACE)	Community Organization—Minority	Joel Tuczynski
Kiwanis Club	Private Service Organization	Cathy Szymanski
LECOM—Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine	Education	Dr. Silvia Ferretti, Provost
MATV—Mothers Against Teen Violence	Community Organization	Sonya Arrington
Multi-Cultural Health Education (MHEDS)	Community Organization—Minority	Agnes Priscaro, RN
NW Regional Highway Safety Network	State and County Government	Geoff Crankshaw
NW Tri County Intermediate Unit 5	Education (PA Dept. of Education)—Erie Co. Schools	Michelee Curtze
Ophelia Project	Private Non-Profit	Chivon Fitch
PartnerSHIP for a Healthy Community	Private Non-Profit	Rev. Nettie Smith
PA Attorney General	State Government/Law Enforcement	Elaine Surma
PA Dept of Community Economic Dev.	State Government/Economic Development	Tom Scrimenti
PA State Police	State Government/Law Enforcement	Bob Brown, Mike Fox, Corporal Zaleski
PA Traffic Injury Prevention Project	State Government/Injury Prevention	Mary La Kari
Penn DOT	State Government/Traffic Safety	Marianne Warner
Pyramid Healthcare	Health Care	Melissa Montero
Safe Kids Erie	Community Organization	Patty Puline, Del Niggel
Safenet	Private Non-Profit	Linda Lyons King
Saint Vincent Health Center	Health Care	Lisa Kaveny, Kristen Bruschi
School Resource Officers	Law Enforcement	John Habursky
School District—City of Erie	Education—City of Erie Schools	Dr. Jim Barker
Senator Jane Earll	Legislative—State	Jane Earll, Regina Smith, Brenda Snyder
United Way of Erie County	Community Organization	Bill Jackson, Chris Yuhás
Weed and Seed	Community Organization	Steph Chatman
WIC of Erie County	Community Organization—Government	Debra Jamison
Women's Care Center	Private Non-Profit	Brenda Newport

In addition to the member agencies listed above, Safe Communities Erie collaborates with several local health care systems, private sector agencies, sports and recreational associations, public and private schools and educational institutions, retailers, and senior citizen programs to address specific injury issues. A partial list of these additional partners is listed below:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albion News • American Red Cross • Bayfront MLK Center • Booker T Washington Center • Cable Access TV (CATV) • Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Center • Eat’N Park • Edinboro News • Erie Area Agency on Aging • Erie Center for Health and Aging • Erie County Farms • Erie Times News • Family First Sports Park • Grey Save—Animal Rights • Girl Scouts of NW Pa • Hamot Medical Center NICU • Head Start • Krispy Kreme • Millcreek Community Hospital • Millcreek Cable Television • McBrier Properties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurse Family Partnership/Maternal and Child Health • Penn State Behrend • Scott Enterprises • Shriners Hospital • Skateboard Park of Erie • Sisters of Saint Joseph Neighborhood Network • Stairways Behavioral Health • Subway • Troyer Farms • United Way of Erie County • Wendy’s • WIC of Erie County • WICU, WSEE, WJET—local affiliates for NBC, CBS and ABC networks • WQLN—Public Radio • Walmart
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This broad and deep community engagement will ensure our sustainability, and our positive effect on local safety promotion and injury prevention activities and policies.

B. Task Force Groups

Name of Task Force	Members	What sector members represent	How the group works	Long-term Goals
Cribs for Kids	Safe Kids Erie; St. Vincent Hospital; Hamot Medical Center; Millcreek Community Hospital, Great Lakes Home Healthcare, Erie Home Health Nurse Family Partnership, Erie County Dept of Health	Health care; home visiting	Group meets as needed; communicate via email and telephone. Members trained in best practices for safe sleep; Pack ‘n Play cribs kept in central location and made available as needed to low-income mothers	Safe Sleep—Ensure that all infants sleep in a safe environment

Task Force Groups, continued

Name of Task Force	Members	What sector members represent	How the group works	Long-term Goals
Protect the Place You Call Home	City of Erie Fire Department, Erie County Dept of Health, Safe Kids, Mayor of Erie, Erie County Executive, local fire departments, Local 293 Fire Union Members	Fire Prevention, Emergency Services, County Health, City and County government	Subcommittee of Safe Kids Erie; collaborate to plan program, write funding applications, distribute smoke and CO alarms, and implement educational activities.	Prevent deaths and injuries related to fire and carbon monoxide poisoning.
Nuisance Bar Task Force	District Attorney's Office; City of Erie Police Dept.; Erie County Dept. of Health	Law Enforcement; Public Health	Team investigates complaints from neighbors about fights, guns, underage drinking by visiting bars, performing undercover operations and inspections.	Prevent violence injury and maintain neighborhood integrity
Eagle Task Force	PA Attorney General's Office; church leaders; citizens	Law Enforcement; neighborhood residents	The Erie Area Gang Law Enforcement task force, or EAGLE, is an FBI Safe Streets task force consisting of Federal, State, and Local law enforcement officers. The EAGLE task force targets violent criminal organizations, drug distribution networks and the apprehension of violent fugitives.	Prevent violence and promote neighborhood safety
Neighborhood Watch	Neighborhood residents; City of Erie Police	Residents; Law Enforcement	Meet monthly; cultivate cooperation between community residents and police	Strengthen resident participation in law enforcement
Child Abuse Task Force	Erie County Abuse Advisory Board; Children's Advocacy Center; Child Death Review Team; Fraternal Order of Police	Law Enforcement; Social Service Agencies; Public Health	Information on child abuse cases is gathered through interviews, search warrants, evidence collections, interrogations, and total case management.	The Child Abuse Unit is responsible for tracking all of the abuse cases reported in Erie County
Protection from Abuse Task Force	Erie County District Attorney's Office, Erie County Abuse Advisory Board. Erie County Detectives	Child Abuse Unit Detectives	Coordinates several core disciplines in the investigation of sexual and physical abuse against children.	Reduce crimes against women and children
Violence Against Women Task Force	Erie County District Attorney's Office; Hamot Medical Center; St. Vincent Health Center; Crime Victims Center	Law Enforcement; Health Care; Social Service	Work together to recognize, report domestic violence, and intervene; training is a key component.	Reduce Violent Crimes Against Women

Task Force Groups, continued

Name of Task Force	Members	What sector members represent	How the group works	Long-term Goals
Cyber Terrorism Task Force	Erie County District Attorney's Office; Region II Counter-Terrorism Task Force	Law Enforcement; Public Health & Safety	Organize, train and mobilize a cadre of computer forensic examiners and IT personnel to analyze digital media seized in relation to suspected terrorist activities	Obtain information that will help prevent actions of terrorists and others who may do harm
DUI Task Force	District Attorney's Office; PA State Police; City and Municipal Police; District Magistrates; Highway Safety Network	Law Enforcement; Public Health & Safety	Mobilize state and local law enforcement partners to support one another and coordinate efforts aimed at removing impaired drivers from roadways by conducting Sobriety Checkpoints.	Prevent traffic injuries and deaths related to impaired driving.
Safe Boating Task Force	District Attorney's Office; Port Authority; PA Fish and Boat Commission; Hamot Medical Center	Law Enforcement; Government; Health Care	Partners work together to promote boating safety and use of personal floatation devices (PFD) through community events, training, and targeted enforcement of DUI laws.	Prevent accidents, injuries and deaths on Lake Erie waterways.

Criteria 2: Long-term Sustainable Programs

Long-term, sustainable programs covering both genders and all ages, environments and situations.

TRANSPORT SAFETY

Program Name	Lead Organization	Program Description/Purpose	Target Audience(s)
Back is Where It's At	Northwest Regional Highway Safety Network	A class instructed by law enforcement officers to educate elementary children about the safest location in a vehicle until growing out of the booster seat—In the back.	Elementary age children, parents, educators and commercial drivers.
Click it or Ticket	Northwest Regional Highway Safety Network	A law enforcement and media initiative to educate drivers and occupants of seat belt requirements. Addresses seat belt restraint systems at all times—or incur fines.	All ages and gender.
DUI Checkpoint	Northwest Regional Highway Safety Network	Municipal law enforcement perform random stops and check for impaired drivers: Stop, check and arrest—to prevent harm to selves or others on the highway.	Drivers—all ages and gender
DUI Prevention	Lake Erie Pride	Peer Leaders share safety messages through skits, dance and music. In existence for over 10 years; maintained by school professional staff.	Teens and adults
Highway Safety	Northwest Regional Highway Safety Network	In existence since 1986, funded by PA Dept. of Transportation; address aggressive driving, seatbelt use, and DUI through checkpoint enforcement and training for law enforcement and magistrates.	Drivers and motor vehicle occupants—all ages and gender; police and magistrates
R.A.M.P. Responsible Alcohol Management Program	C-COMPASS—Coalition of 3 colleges in Erie Area	PLCB instruction to servers and sellers in taverns and distributorships to responsibly manage liquor sales to patrons—and Not engage in sales to an intoxicated, underage or fake ID patron.	From teens to all older ages and gender
Smart Transportation	PennDOT and Northwest Regional Highway Safety Network	Future planning of communities that involves traffic and design engineers in partnership with local governments to provide best walk ways and avenues for pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles.	Birth to old age
Teen Driving Competition	Northwest Regional Highway Safety Network	High School students may sign up to test their road knowledge and driving skills. Top scorers compete against other contestants to demonstrate best driver designation and earn scholarship money.	Teen drivers who have unblemished driving records for a minimum of one year

HOME SAFETY

Program Name	Lead Organization	Program Description/Purpose	Target Audience(s)
Healthy Steps for Older Adults	Erie Center on Health & Aging	Program includes risk assessment, education, and training to increase physical activity and fitness.	Senior citizens
Protect the Place You Call Home	City of Erie Fire Department	Home fire safety education and distribution of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms; started in 2006.	Low and middle-income families; senior citizens

LEISURE SAFETY

Program Name	Lead Organization	Program Description/Purpose	Target Audience(s)
ATV Safety	Safe Kids Erie	Prevention of ATV-related injuries through rider education, parent education, promotion of age restrictions, helmet use, and participation in ATV safety course.	Rural families
Boating Safety	Safe Boating Task Force	Multiple partners work together to promote boating safety and use of personal floatation devices (PFD) through community events and training.	Adult boat owners; children
Playground Safety	Safe Kids Erie	Injury risk reduction on playgrounds through teacher training and distribution of Playground Safety Kits.	Teachers, caretakers, children
Project ImpACT	Safe Kids Erie	Prevent traumatic brain injury to youth athletes through use of computerized assessment and no-play policy following head trauma.	Coaches and youth involved in organized sports
Skatepark Safety	Safe Kids Erie	Prevent sports injury to youth and young adult skateboarders through education and helmet distribution.	Skateboard Park attendees and members

CHILDREN'S SAFETY

Program Name	Lead Organization	Program Description/Purpose	Target Audience(s)
Bicycle and Wheel Safety	Safe Kids Erie	Ongoing activities to support PA law that all children under age 12 wear an approved helmet while bicycling, including free and discounted helmet distribution program; community bike rodeos; partnerships with law enforcement, schools, and other agencies. Also—skateboard helmets and safety education.	Children ages 4-14 Parents/caregivers Bike groups Schools
Child Death Prevention	Child Death Review Team	Systematic review of all deaths to people under age 21; The goal is to prevent accidental death, by recommending remediation efforts, such as prevention and intervention. Team includes representatives from emergency medicine, social services, law enforcement, public health, safety advocates, coroner. Supported by PA Dept. of Health; Erie County Dept. of Health; multiple community professionals.	Depends upon type of death being studied.
Child Passenger Safety	Safe Kids Erie	Ongoing activities to support PA law that all children under the age 8 are in a child safety seat and others in a safety belt, including a discount car seat program; loan program (30 car seats annually); community car seat checks (four annually); and Bounty programs to remove old, damaged and recalled seats.	Parents and children
Cribs for Kids	Saint Vincent Health Care	Began in 2008 following SIDS deaths in Erie County and as an initiative of the ECDH, local hospitals, and Child Death Review Committee	Low income parents who meet WIC guidelines and emergency situations only
Halloween Safety	Safe Kids Erie	Program provides Halloween Safety tips to all elementary schools in Erie County and online tips www.ecdh.org	Children ages 4-14 and parents/caregivers
Pedestrian Safety – Walk to School Day	Safe Kids Erie	Partners FEDEX and school districts, to educate students about pedestrian, traffic safety and health benefits of walking to school.	School age children and teachers

CHILDREN'S SAFETY, continued

Poison Prevention	Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM)	Poison prevention curriculum, using LECOM pharmacy students to present classroom presentations to students and teachers. "Look alike" display kit.	Children ages 6-21 and parents, schools, caregivers
Railroad Safety	Operation Lifesavers CSX and Safe Kids Erie	Railroad safety curriculum presentations to classrooms and schools that fall within the boundaries of adjacent railroad tracks. Teach safety, look, listen, learn, live.	School age children who walk past, around or near railroad tracks
Safe Kids	Safe Kids Erie	Public Awareness, events, and education on multiple topics related to childhood injury prevention, including bike safety, poison prevention, water safety, safe sleep (SIDS prevention), fire safety, pedestrian safety, car seat safety, sport safety. Began in 1991, supported by Erie County Dept. of Health; PA Dept. of Health; PA Safe Kids; Safe Kids Worldwide; multiple funding and community partners and volunteers.	Children ages 0-17; Parents/guardians; school personnel; media

ELDERLY SAFETY

Program Name	Lead Organization	Program Description/Purpose	Target Audience(s)
Healthy Steps for Older Adults	Erie Center on Health & Aging	Program includes risk assessment, education, and training to increase physical activity and fitness.	Senior citizens

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Program Name	Lead Organization	Program Description/Purpose	Target Audience(s)
Yellow Ribbon Campaign	Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM)	Medical students visit local schools to teach about warning signs of suicide, and prevention.	Teens

INTENTIONAL INJURY PREVENTION

Program Name	Lead Organization	Program Description/Purpose	Target Audience(s)
Good Secrets Bad Secrets	Crime Victim Center	This program helps students identify the difference between a good secret and a bad secret, what should be done with bad secrets (tell a trusted adult); and what are good and bad touches.	Children ages pre school to junior high
Internet Neighborhood Crime Watch	The Erie District Attorney's Office	Program to inform the public of recent crimes occurring in their area. It also allows the public to inform law enforcement about suspicious events happening in their neighborhood.	Community members
Lead and Seed	Coalition Pathways	Teams of community members working together to take back their streets and communities from drugs and crime through community action.	Community members of all ages and situations.
Project Safe Neighborhoods	Erie Weed and Seed	Aims to reduce gun and gang related activities through community action and collaboration with local law enforcement.	Community members; law enforcement
Safe Passage	City of Erie Police Dept.	Program places two police officers at or around four center city elementary schools for three hours each day from 2—5:00 pm.	Elementary school children
Stop Violence Against Women Task Force	Erie County District Attorney's Office	Started in 1996, the objective of this program is to reduce violent crimes against women in Erie County through coordination between law enforcement, medical personnel, victim service providers, and the Court system.	Women

CRITERIA 3: PROGRAMS SERVING HIGH RISK AND VULNERABLE GROUPS AND ENVIRONMENTS

Based on injury data in Erie County, high risk and vulnerable groups are being defined as children (0-14), young drivers; older adults, and inner-city residents. High risk environments include motor vehicles, roadways, waterways, homes, and inner-city neighborhoods.

While all of the programs listed under Criteria 2 address high risk groups and environments, the following programs are specially targeted to the most high risk groups, environments, and vulnerable populations as defined in the previous paragraph, and have been grouped by high-risk population.

CHILDREN

Bicycle and Wheel Safety

Ongoing activities to support PA law that all children under age 12 wear an approved helmet while bicycling, including free and discounted helmet distribution program; community bike rodeos; partnerships with law enforcement, schools, and other agencies. Also—skateboard helmets and safety education.

High-risk environment(s) addressed: roadways, skateparks



Boating Safety

Multiple partners work together to promote boating safety and use of personal floatation devices (PFD) through community events and training.

High-risk environment(s) addressed: waterways

Child Passenger Safety

Ongoing activities to support PA law that all children under the age 8 are in a child safety seat and others in a safety belt, including a discount car seat program; loan program (30 car seats annually); community car seat checks (four annually); and Bounty programs to remove old, damaged and recalled seats. High-risk environment(s) addressed: motor vehicles, roadways



Cribs for Kids

Began in 2008 following SIDS deaths in Erie County and as an initiative of the Safe Kids Coalition, the Erie County Dept of Health, local hospitals, and Child Death Review Committee. Run by the Saint Vincent Health Center nurses and social service unit, they service babies of low-income families, and respond to emergency situations. To date, we have distributed over 80 pack and play cribs, with as many in home education classes on crib safety, SIDS.

High-risk environment(s) addressed: homes



Good Secrets Bad Secrets

Presented by the Crime Victim Center of Erie, this program helps students identify the difference between a good secret and a bad secret, what should be done with bad secrets (tell a trusted adult); and what are good and bad touches.

High-risk environment(s) addressed: homes, and all places children go

Programs Serving High Risk Groups and Environments, continued

Poison Prevention

Poison prevention partnership with LECOM, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine pharmacy director. Curriculum, written by the Safe Kids Coalition and LECOM, operates on an as needed basis using LECOM pharmacy students to present classroom presentations to students and teachers. "Look alike" display kit developed by the Coalition is for use on loan. High-risk environment(s) addressed: homes



Protect the Place You Call Home

Protect the Place You Call Home is a partnership between the Erie Fire Department, Safe Kids Erie Area, and Erie County Dept of Health that has made it possible for community members to receive a smoke alarm and/or carbon monoxide detector at no/or reduced cost. This program offers education and installation assistance. The goal of this program will be to raise awareness of carbon monoxide poisoning and fire prevention to reduce the injury death rate in our community. High-risk environment(s) addressed: homes



Railroad Safety

Partnerships with CSX and Canadian Railroad, FedEx and Operation Lifesavers to promote and educate school children on railroad safety. Trained health educators provide curriculum presentations to classrooms and schools that fall within the boundaries of adjacent railroad tracks. Teach safety, look, listen, learn, live. High-risk environment(s) addressed: roadways/railways

Safe Kids

Public Awareness, events, and education on multiple topics related to childhood injury prevention, including bike safety, poison prevention, water safety, safe sleep (SIDS prevention), fire safety, pedestrian safety, car seat safety, sport safety. Began in 1991, supported by Erie County Dept. of Health; PA Dept. of Health; PA Safe Kids; Safe Kids Worldwide; multiple funding and community partners and volunteers. High-risk environment(s) addressed: homes, inner-city, roadways, waterways, skateparks



Safe Passage

Program places two police officers at or around four center city elementary schools for three hours each day from 2—5:00 pm. High-risk environment(s) addressed: inner-city neighborhoods, roadways

Walk to School Day

Safe Kids Erie partners with FedEx and Safe Kids Worldwide to be part of the national walk to school day in October, providing education for school districts, to educate students about pedestrian and traffic safety and health benefits of walking to school. Halloween safety is also included for children on this day. High-risk environment(s) addressed: roadways

YOUNG DRIVERS

Teen Driving Competition

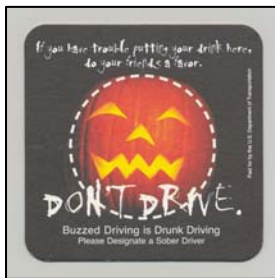
High School students test road knowledge and driving skills, compete against each other to demonstrate best driver designation and earn scholarship money.

High-risk environment(s) addressed: roadways



R.A.M.P. Responsible Alcohol Management Program
PLCB instruction to servers and sellers in taverns and distributorships to responsibly manage liquor sales to patrons, and not engage in sales to an intoxicated, underage or fake ID patron.

High-risk environment(s) addressed: bars around college campuses, inner-city bars, roadways



DUI Prevention

Peer Leaders share safety messages through skits, dance and music. In existence for over 10 years; maintained by school professional staff.

High-risk environment(s) addressed: roadways

OLDER ADULTS

Healthy Steps for Older Adults

Program includes risk assessment, education, and training to increase physical activity and fitness.

High-risk environment(s) addressed: homes, senior centers, and other senior facilities.

Protect the Place You Call Home

Protect the Place You Call Home is a partnership between the Erie Fire Department, Safe Kids Erie Area, and Erie County Dept of Health that has made it possible for community members to receive a smoke alarm and/or carbon monoxide detector at no/or reduced cost. This program offers education and installation assistance. The goal of this program will be to raise awareness of carbon monoxide poisoning and fire prevention to reduce the injury death rate in our community.

High-risk environment(s) addressed: homes

INNER-CITY RESIDENTS

Internet Neighborhood Crime Watch

Program to inform the public of recent crimes occurring in their area. It also allows the public to inform law enforcement about suspicious events happening in their neighborhood.

High-risk environment(s): inner-city neighborhoods

Lead and Seed

Teams of community members working together to take back their streets and communities from drugs and crime through community action.

High-risk environment(s) addressed: inner-city neighborhoods

Project Safe Neighborhoods

Aims to reduce gun and gang related activities through community action and collaboration with local law enforcement.

High-risk environment(s) addressed: inner-city neighborhoods

Criteria 4: Frequencies & Causes of Injuries

The Erie County Department of Health employs two epidemiologists who review injury data annually. Erie County injury data is obtained from all of the sources listed below. The Erie County Adult Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) provides valuable information on injury prevention behaviors within the adult community, such as adult seatbelt use, child car safety seat use, bicycle helmet use by children, smoke detector use and operational checks, and household fire escape plans. Other sources listed below provide information on incidence, prevalence, hospitalization, and deaths related to injuries.

Data from each of these sources is used by the Erie County Department of Health and its community partners to focus and direct community action as well as evaluate the effectiveness of these actions.

- 2007 Erie County Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey
Source: PA Department of Health; Erie County Department of Health
- “Injuries in Pennsylvania: County Profiles 2005”
Source: PA Department of Health
- “Injury Deaths and Hospitalizations in Pennsylvania: 2001-2005”
Source: PA Department of Health
- “Traumatic Brain Injuries in Pennsylvania: County Profiles, 1995-1999”
Source: PA Department of Health
- “2007 Pennsylvania Crash Facts & Statistics”
Source: PA Department of Transportation
- Vital Statistics Database: Deaths
Source: PA Department of Health; Erie County Department of Health
- “Firearm-Related Injuries in Pennsylvania”
Source: Research Briefs, Issue No.6, August 2005; PA Health Care Cost Containment Council

Injury Patterns in Erie County and Current Program Priorities

Tables for this section are included in Appendix B

In Erie County, **unintentional injuries** were the leading cause of death for people between the ages of 1 and 44 and the fifth leading cause of death for all ages for the three year period 2004 through 2006 (Table B-1).

When evaluating age groups, unintentional injury was the number one cause of death for ages 1 through 44 in Erie County and was the third leading cause of death for ages 45 through 64 surpassed only by cancer and heart disease. (Table B-1). Similar rankings can be seen for both Pennsylvania and the United States. (Tables B-2, B-3)

Unintentional injuries do not always result in death but may be severe enough to require hospitalization. Based on hospital discharge data from 2005, the three most prevalent causes of unintentional injury were **falls, poisoning, and motor vehicle crashes** (Table B-4). In 2005, 3,003 Erie County residents were hospitalized and survived unintentional injuries.

Falls resulted in the hospitalization of 1,261 Erie County residents. This accounted for 42% of all injury hospitalizations with subsequent discharge and ranked first among ages 0 to 14 and 45 to 75+. Fifty-six percent of injury hospitalizations among 65 to 74 year olds and 75% of injury hospitalizations among 75+ were due to falls. (Table B-4)

Programs currently in place to address fall prevention include:

- Healthy Steps for Older Adults
- Skatepark Safety
- Playground Safety
- Bicycle and Wheel Safety

Poisoning resulted in the hospitalization of 473 Erie County residents in 2005. This accounted for 16% of all injury hospitalizations with discharge and ranked first for ages 15 to 44, second for ages 0 to 5, 45 to 64, and 75+, and third for ages 5 to 14 and 65 to 74. (Table B-4)

Programs currently in place to address poisoning include:

- Safe Kids
- LECOM's Poison Prevention program

Motor vehicle crashes were responsible for seven percent of all injury hospitalizations in Erie County in 2005. This ranked second among ages 15 to 24 and 65 to 74 and third for ages 25 to 64 and 75+. Motorcyclist injury hospitalization ranked fifth for ages 25-44. (Table B-4) For 2007, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation reported a total of 1,422 injury crashes in Erie County, not all of which required hospitalization.

Programs currently in place to address injury prevention related to motor vehicle crashes include:

- Click it or Ticket
- Back is Where It's At (child passenger safety)
- DUI Checkpoint
- Teen Driving Competition
- Responsible Alcohol Management Program
- Peer-to-Peer DUI Prevention Program

Suicide was the second leading cause of death for ages 15 to 24 and the fourth leading cause of death among 25 to 44 year olds for the years 2004 through 2006. **Homicide** was the fifth leading cause of death for ages 25 to 44 during this same time frame. (Table B-1)

Programs currently in place to address suicide and homicide prevention include:

- Yellow Ribbon Campaign
- Internet Neighborhood Crime Watch

- Lead and Seed
- Project Safe Neighborhoods
- Stop Violence Against Women

Unique to children ages 0 to 5 was injury hospitalization due to fire/flame and hot objects. These accounted for 19% of all injury hospitalizations in this age group and ranked third and fourth respectively. (Table B-4)

Programs currently in place to address fire/burn prevention for children include:

- Protect the Place You Call Home
- Safe Kids
- Halloween Safety

Criteria 5: Program Evaluation

Progress, the achievement of program objectives and the effectiveness of program activities are monitored and evaluated using pre-and-post questionnaires in educational programs; observational surveys; tracking systems to measure effort and reach, reporting databases provided by funders; and surveillance activities of the Erie County Health Department and the Pennsylvania Departments of Health and Transportation.

Process Evaluation (questions to be answered):

1. To what extent are all partnering organizations implementing activities as planned?
2. How many interventions, training programs and events are being done? How many people are being reached by each activity? To what extent are we reaching those at greatest risk?
3. How could each activity be improved?

Outcome/Impact Evaluation (questions to be answered):

1. To what extent were goals and objectives achieved? Did our efforts result in: (for example) More people wearing a seat belt?...More children wearing a helmet?...Fewer deaths in single family fires due to installation of carbon monoxide and/or smoke alarms?

Evaluation Plan Summary

Aspect Measured	Data Collection Method	Expected Outcome
Program Outreach (Effort and Reach)	Project Records and Tracking Systems: Number of participants in all interventions; number of trainings, presentations, media exposures; number of materials distributed. Age, race, gender, and other key indicators of those reached.	Increase number of persons educated on key safety topics; and/or number participating in events and programs. Increase number of high-risk populations participating in interventions and/or receiving information. Increase number of partners (injury prevention programs) that have effective education, policy and leadership.
Program Process	Program Evaluation forms are completed by participants of trainings, speaking engagements and seminars.	Feedback for program improvement; Behavioral intentions (e.g., program participant expresses intent to wear safety helmet while skiing)
Changes in Behavior (or Environment)	Direct Observational Surveys (Helmet Observation Surveys). Youth Knowledge Survey (administered through schools). Assessment tool to measure compliance with NHTSA guidelines.(e.g., car seat safety)	Increase percentage of kids wearing helmets on bikes, skateboards, skis. Increase percentage of students who have knowledge of PA Bike law. Increase number of children transported safely in cars.
Outcomes	Examination of death records Examination of hospital discharge data	Decrease in the number of injury deaths. Decrease in the number of injuries.

Example of How Evaluation Has Been Used for Program Improvement

Programs that have been improved or changed due to evaluations include the new skateboard park and our fire department program, *Protect the Place You Call Home*.

We conducted pre and post surveys at the **Skateboard Park** in Erie in September of 2008, which indicated at the time that less than 10% of participants were wearing helmets. Further statistics showed that 85% were males, and 15% females. A skateboard committee approached the owners of the park, the City of Erie, to mandate helmets for children under the age of 12, but this was met with resistance. We met with City Council with a prepared resolution, based on other city owned parks in Pennsylvania. Citing insurance reasons, we were denied the passage of this resolution to mandate helmets in the skateboard park.

We then requested signage encouraging helmet usage, and the Mayor, during the inauguration speech, asked everyone to do as he does, and please wear a helmet. Compromises were made, and signage does encourage, recommend, but not mandate helmet usage.

Safe Kids Erie was tasked by the Safe Communities board to purchase, donate, distribute and fit helmets properly on the day the park opened. We had 53 helmets fitted that day.

Follow up surveys were conducted in the spring of 2009, and indicated that helmet usage did not increase by significant numbers, however, we did notice helmets on the handlebars of bikes, and on nearby picnic tables. So, surveys indicated that helmets were being TAKEN to the park, but not being used.



Further follow up indicated that parents wanted children to wear the helmets, and kids did not want to wear the helmets. We changed our program by asking the kids what type of helmets they would wear, and our next order was for Tony Hawk helmets. This increased usage.

Protect the Place You Call Home began in the fall of 2006 following 13 fire deaths in 18 months in Erie County. We concentrated on a smoke alarm campaign, and offered free installation through a partnership with the Erie Fire Department. Surveys indicated that certain geographic areas in the inner city were most at risk, so we concentrated our efforts there for saturation during the first year. Secondly, our follow up surveys with Greater Erie Community Action Committee, (GECAC) indicated that low income housing residents often needed smoke alarms and were not fully prepared against a fire due to various reasons. We trained GECAC

workers to complete in home assessments, conduct pre and post surveys, and we gave out alarms to those in need.

The program has changed due to evaluations indicating geographic area, high risk environments, low income families, renters. We used to give alarms only to home owners, because our reasoning was that landlords are required to provide these for tenants. Evaluations indicated that this was not always the case, so we relaxed that rule, and now give out alarms to anyone who needs them.

Along with one on one education for each client, we also provide home exit drill worksheets. School programs are available by request. Last year we conducted over 30 programs on fire safety throughout the county, and distributed over 3,000 alarms.

Criteria 6—National and International Networking

Below are some of the ways that Safe Communities Erie has participated in state, national and international networks:

Safe Sleep Conference in Pittsburgh, PA—attended to launch the Safe Kids Campaign in Erie which was addressed during the first Safe Communities Coalition meeting. Members tasked Patty Puline with finding someone to attend the meeting, bring back information, form a committee, and then to address the needs. A member of the committee attended, we formed a new chapter, found and secured funding, the health department coordinated the venture, and Saint Vincent Health Center took the lead. We have to date given out over 160 pack and play cribs, and reduced the amount of SIDS deaths in Erie by 65% overall.

Safe Kids Worldwide National Conference in Washington, DC—Patty Puline presented abstract and poster presentation on “Protect the Place You Call Home” fire safety project with the local fire department. Our program started due to 13 fire deaths in an 18 month period. We have not had one fatality since we started our program of smoke detectors. We have given out over 5,000 alarms and have created a database for all fire departments to access in case of a fire.

Safe States Alliance (STIPDA) National Conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan—Patty Puline presented abstract and poster presentation on “Skateboard Park in Erie, PA” highlighting the pitfalls and triumphs of trying to pass helmet requirements in the park for children.

Lifesavers Conference—A representative from our Northwest Regional Highway Safety Network attended this National Highway safety meeting dedicated to reducing the tragic toll of deaths and injuries on our nation's roadways. This annual event provides a forum for relevant solutions to critical highway safety problems and addresses a wide range of safety topics, from child passenger safety and occupant protection to roadway and vehicle safety and technology.

Safe Communities Erie/Canadian National Rail Partnership—Formed international partnership for rail safety, as CNR educates children about rail safety and the dangers of playing near railroad tracks. Due to the deaths of children in a certain area, we spearheaded a railway safety program in that neighborhood. Besides CNR, CSX and Safe Kids Worldwide created an educational project for schools. Last year over 600 kids learned about rail safety in the area where two train deaths occurred.

Great Lakes Border Health Initiative (GLBHI)—Erie County Department of Health, Public Health Preparedness program works actively with Canada, and other states bordering on the Great Lakes, to establish communication and preparedness systems that facilitate working together to respond to health and safety threats related to our shared borders and waterways.

Cross-Border Conference—Erie County is the only county in Pennsylvania that shares a border with another country (Canada). As such, staff from the Erie County Department of Health represented the state of Pennsylvania at the Cross-Border Conference held this year in Seattle, Washington. The purpose of the conference is to promote cooperation and sharing of information and systems between U.S. border states, Canada, and Mexico and to be better prepared to respond to threats to health and safety.

Population Characteristics of Erie County
Tables A-1 through A-5

**Table A-1: 2008 POPULATION ESTIMATES FOR ERIE COUNTY
 SEX AND SELECTED AGE GROUPS - TOTAL POPULATION**

Age group	Total	Males	Females
All ages	279,175	137,197	141,978
Median age	38.3	36.5	40.0
Under 18 years	63,598 (22.8%)	32,853	30,745
18 to 64 years	175,318 (62.8%)	87,820	87,498
65 years and over	40,259 (14.4%)	16,524	23,735

Source: US Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

**Table A-2: 2008 POPULATION ESTIMATES FOR ERIE COUNTY
 RACE & ETHNICITY—TOTAL POPULATION**

Race or Ethnicity	Population	Males	Females
All Races	279,175 (100.0%)	137,197	141,978
White alone	253,991 (91.0%)	124,196	129,795
Black or African American alone	18,739 (6.7%)	9,809	8,930
Asian alone	2,161 (0.8%)	1,031	1,130
American Indian and Native Alaskan alone	554 (0.2%)	284	270
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone	81 (0.03%)	41	40
Two or more races	3,649 (1.3%)	1,836	1,813
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	8,010 (2.9%)	4,243	3,767

Source: US Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

Table A-3: 2008 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY ESTIMATES FOR ERIE COUNTY INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS COMPARED TO PENNSYLVANIA AND U.S. (IN 2008 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)

Category	Erie County	Pennsylvania	U.S.
Total population	279,175	12,448,279	304,059,728
Per capita income	\$22,847	\$27,280	\$27,589
Total households	106,435	4,904,554	113,101,329
Median household income	\$44,247	\$50,713	\$52,029
Less than \$10,000	7.3%	7.2%	7.2%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	6.9%	5.8%	5.4%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	12.0%	11.1%	10.7%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	13.5%	10.8%	10.4%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	15.3%	14.4%	14.2%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	20.1%	19.4%	18.8%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	10.9%	12.3%	12.4%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	9.8%	11.8%	12.3%
\$150,000 or more	4.1%	7.3%	8.7%
Family households	69,846	3,205,114	75,030,551
Median household income	\$57,363	\$63,316	\$63,366
Nonfamily households	36,589	1,699,440	38,070,778
Median household income	\$26,294	\$28,878	\$31,649

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

Table A-4: 2008 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY ESTIMATES FOR ERIE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AND U.S.—EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Education Level	Erie County	Pennsylvania	U.S.
Population 18 to 24 years	32,695 (100.0%)	1,208,921	30,107,814
Less than high school graduate	13.0%	13.3%	17.0%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	31.9%	31.8%	30.6%
Some college or associate's degree	51.2%	43.8%	43.2%
Bachelor's degree or higher	10.3%	11.1%	9.2%
High school graduate or higher	93.4%	86.7%	83.0%
Education Level	Estimated Percent		
Population 25 years and over	183,157 (100.0%)	8,475,332	200,030,018
Less than high school graduate	10.6%	12.6%	15.1%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	42.1%	37.3%	28.5%
Some college or Associates degree	23.3%	23.9%	28.8%
Bachelor's degree	14.7%	16.3%	17.5%
Graduate or professional degree	9.2%	10.0%	10.2%
Bachelor's degree or higher	23.9%	26.3%	27.7%
High school graduate or higher	89.3%	87.5%	85.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

Table A-5: 2008 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY ESTIMATES FOR ERIE COUNTY DISABILITY CHARACTERISTICS COMPARED TO PENNSYLVANIA AND U.S. (5 Years and Older); Civilian Non-institutionalized Population

Category	Erie County	Pennsylvania	U.S.
Population 5 years and over	256,659	11,470,565	277,667,051
Without any disability	83.44%	85.9%	87.1%
With a disability	16.6%	14.1%	12.9%
Population 5 to 17 years	46,730	2,018,401	52,878,578
With any disability	8.7%	6.1%	5.2%
Hearing	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%
Vision	1.0%	0.6%	0.7%
Cognitive	7.6%	6.2%	5.1%
Self-care	1.6%	1.1%	1.0%
Ambulatory	1.0%	0.6%	0.7%
Population 18 to 64 years	172,295	7,658,886	187,579,233
With any disability	13.3%	10.9%	10.2%
Hearing	3.3%	2.9%	2.8%
Vision	2.2%	1.7%	1.8%
Cognitive	5.6%	4.6%	4.2%
Self-care	2.4%	1.8%	1.7%
Ambulatory	6.5%	4.9%	4.6%
Independent Living	4.6%	3.4%	3.2%
Population over 65 years	37,634	1,793,278	37,209,240
With any disability	41.7%	37.0%	38.1%
Hearing	17.5%	15.2%	15.7%
Vision	8.3%	6.6%	7.7%
Cognitive	9.6%	8.5%	9.8%
Self-care	8.5%	7.8%	9.2%
Ambulatory	26.8%	23.2%	24.7%
Independent Living	19.5%	16.5%	17.2%

Persons could report more than one type of disability.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

INJURY PATTERNS IN ERIE COUNTY

**Table 1: Leading Causes of Death by Age: Erie County
2004-2006**

Age Groups	Rank				
	1	2	3	4	5
<1	Perinatal Conditions N=32 Rate=309.2	SIDS N=12 Rate=115.9	Congenital Anomalies N=10 Rate=96.6	Respiratory Disease N=5 Rate=48.3	Nervous System Disease N=4 ---
1-4	Unintentional Injuries N=5 Rate=11.9	Congenital Anomalies N=2 ---	Respiratory Disease N=1 ---	Cancer N=1 ---	Infectious Disease N=1 ---
0-4	Perinatal Conditions N=32 Rate=63.9	SIDS N=12 Rate=23.9	Congenital Anomalies N=10 Rate=20.0	Unintentional Injuries N=6 Rate=12.0	Respiratory Disease N=5 Rate=10.0
5-14	Unintentional Injuries N=5 Rate=4.5	Respiratory Disease N=3 ---	Cancer N=2 ---	Nervous System Dis. N=2 ---	Heart Disease N=1 ---
15-24	Unintentional Injuries N=34 Rate=25.2	Suicide N=13 Rate=9.6	Heart Disease N=5 Rate=3.7	Nervous System Dis. N=5 Rate=3.7	Cancer N=3 ---
25-44	Unintentional Injuries N=78 Rate=35.7	Cancer N=52 Rate=23.8	Heart Disease N=32 Rate=14.7	Suicide N=31 Rate=14.2	Homicide N=10 Rate=4.6
45-64	Cancer N=459 Rate=221.0	Heart Disease N=278 Rate=133.8	Unintentional Injuries N=94 Rate=45.3	Diabetes Mellitus N=48 Rate=23.1	CLRD* N=43 Rate=20.7
65+	Heart Disease N=1,857 Rate=1,544.2	Cancer N=1,387 Rate=1,153.4	Stroke N=439 Rate=365.1	CLRD* N=353 Rate=293.5	Kidney Disease N=218 Rate=181.3
All Ages	Heart Disease N=2,173 Rate=229.2	Cancer N=1,904 Rate=204.7	Stroke N=487 Rate=50.7	CLRD* N=399 Rate=41.6	Unintentional Injuries N=324 Rate=37.2

Rates are age-adjusted per 100,000 population.

Erie County Department of Health

Numbers less than 20 are statistically unreliable; Rates are not reported for numbers less than 5.

Current year populations were used to calculate rates; Population estimates are from PA DOH and U.S. Census Bureau.

*Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease

Sources: Erie County Department of Health, Vital Statistics Database; Erie County Mortality Statistics, 2004-2006; PA Department of Health.

INJURY PATTERNS IN ERIE COUNTY

**Table 2: Leading Causes of Death by Age: PA
2006**

Age Groups	Rank				
	1	2	3	4	5
0-4	Perinatal Conditions N=625 Rate=85.5	Congenital Anomalies N=233 Rate=31.9	Unintentional Injuries N=64 Rate=8.8	Cancer N=21 Rate=2.9	Homicide N=20 Rate=2.7
5-24	Unintentional Injuries N=719 Rate=21.3	Homicide N=304 Rate=9.0	Suicide N=176 Rate=5.2	Cancer N=100 Rate=3.0	Heart Disease N=41 Rate=1.2
25-44	Unintentional Injuries N=1,390 Rate=43.2	Cancer N=729 Rate=22.7	Heart Disease N=586 Rate=18.2	Suicide N=470 Rate=14.6	Homicide N=306 Rate=9.5
45-64	Cancer N=6,966 Rate=216.0	Heart Disease N=4,514 Rate=140.0	Unintentional Injuries N=1,108 Rate=34.4	Diabetes Mellitus N=722 Rate=22.4	Stroke N=714 Rate=22.1
65-84	Cancer N=16,173 Rate=976.2	Heart Disease N=14,733 Rate=889.3	CLRD* N=3,377 Rate=203.8	Stroke N=3,109 Rate=187.7	Diabetes Mellitus N=1,794 Rate=108.3
85+	Heart Disease N=13,519 Rate=5,913.4	Cancer N=4,964 Rate=2,171.3	Stroke N=3,137 Rate=1,372.2	Alzheimer's Disease N=2,106 Rate=921.2	CLRD* N=1,535 Rate=671.4
All Ages	Heart Disease N=33,414 Rate=225.6	Cancer N=28,955 Rate=195.4	Stroke N=7,093 Rate=47.9	CLRD* N=5,578 Rate=37.3	Unintentional Injuries N=5,143 Rate=39.4

Rates are age-adjusted per 100,000 population.

Current year populations were used to calculate rates; Population estimates are from PA Dept of Health.

Numbers less than 20 are statistically unreliable.

*Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease

These data were provided by the Bureau of Health Statistics and Research, PA Dept of Health. The Department specifically disclaims responsibility for any analyses, interpretations or conclusions.

Erie County Department of Health

INJURY PATTERNS IN ERIE COUNTY

Table 3: Leading Causes of Death by Age: United States

2006

Age Groups	Rank				
	1	2	3	4	5
<1	Congenital Anomalies N=5,827 Rate=136.6	Short Gestation/LBW N=4,841 Rate=113.5	SIDS N=2,145 Rate=50.3	Maternal Complications of Preg. N=1,694 Rate=39.7	Complications of Placenta N=1,123 Rate=26.3
1-4	Unintentional Injuries N=1,591 Rate=9.8	Congenital Anomalies N=501 Rate=3.1	Cancer N=372 Rate=2.3	Homicide N=350 Rate=2.1	Heart Disease N=160 Rate=1.0
5-14	Unintentional Injuries N=2,228 Rate=5.5	Cancer N=916 Rate=2.3	Homicide N=387 Rate=1.0	Congenital Anomalies N=330 Rate=0.8	Heart Disease N=242 Rate=0.6
15-24	Unintentional Injuries N=15,859 Rate=37.4	Homicide N=5,596 Rate=13.2	Suicide N=4,097 Rate=9.7	Cancer N=1,643 Rate=3.9	Heart Disease N=1,021 Rate=2.4
25-44	Unintentional Injuries N=30,949 Rate=36.8	Cancer N=17,604 Rate=20.9	Heart Disease N=14,873 Rate=17.7	Suicide N=11,240 Rate=13.4	Homicide N=7,525 Rate=8.9
45-64	Cancer N=151,654 Rate=202.6	Heart Disease N=101,588 Rate=135.7	Unintentional Injuries N=29,505 Rate=39.4	Diabetes Mellitus N=17,012 Rate=22.7	Stroke N=16,779 Rate=22.4
65+	Heart Disease N=510,934 Rate=1,371.3	Cancer N=387,828 Rate=1,040.9	Stroke N=117,284 Rate=314.8	CLRD* N=107,058 Rate=287.3	Alzheimer's Disease N=72,135 Rate=193.6
All Ages	Heart Disease N=629,191 Rate=210.2	Cancer N=560,102 Rate=187.1	Stroke N=137,265 Rate=45.8	CLRD* N=124,614 Rate=41.6	Unintentional Injuries N=117,748 Rate=39.3

Rates are age-adjusted per 100,000 population.

Erie County Department of Health

*Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease

Source: Deaths: Preliminary data for 2006. National vital statistics reports; vol.56 no.16.

INJURY PATTERNS IN ERIE COUNTY

**Table 4: Leading Injury Hospitalization Discharges by Age: Erie County
2005**

Age Groups	Injury Discharges	Rank					
		1	2	3	4	5	
<5	47	Fall N=9 %=19.1	Poisoning N=8 %=17.0	Fire/Flame N=5 %=10.6	Hot Object N=4 %=8.5	Bite/Sting N=3 %=6.4	Struck By N=3 %=6.4
5-14	82	Fall N=16 %=19.5	Struck By N=11 %=13.4	Poisoning N=10 %=12.2	Cut/Pierce N=8 %=9.8	Bite/Sting N=5 %=6.1	Transport, Other N=5 %=6.1
15-24	337	Poisoning N=112 %=33.2	MVT Occupant N=56 %=16.6	Fall N=32 %=9.5	Cut/Pierce N=28 %=8.3	Struck By N=23 %=6.8	
25-44	581	Poisoning N=181 %=31.2	Fall N=75 %=12.9	MVT Occupant N=52 %=9.0	Cut/Pierce N=37 %=6.4	MVT Motorcyclist N=25 %=4.3	
45-64	662	Fall N=223 %=33.7	Poisoning N=119 %=18.0	MVT Occupant N=59 %=8.9	Cut/Pierce N=18 %=2.7	Transport, Other N=12 %=1.8	
65-74	332	Fall N=186 %=56.0	MVT Occupant N=18 %=5.4	Poisoning N=16 %=4.8	Struck By N=12 %=3.6	Overexertion N=9 %=2.7	
75+	962	Fall N=720 %=74.8	Poisoning N=27 %=2.8	MVT Occupant N=16 %=1.7	Overexertion N=14 %=1.5	Suffocation N=13 %=1.4	
All Ages	3,003	Fall N=1,261 %=42.0	Poisoning N=473 %=15.8	MVT Occupant N=205 %=6.8	Struck By N=101 %=3.4	Cut/Pierce N=96 %=3.2	

Reported percents are within age groups.

Sources: Injuries in Pennsylvania, County Profiles 2005, Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Erie County Department of Health

INJURY PATTERNS IN ERIE COUNTY

**Table 5: Leading Injury Hospitalization Discharges by Age: Pennsylvania
2005**

Age Groups	Injury Discharges	Rank				
		1	2	3	4	5
<5	2,416	Fall N=677 %=28.0	Poisoning N=285 %=11.8	Hot Object N=245 %=10.1	Bite/Sting N=144 %=6.0	MVT Occupant N=115 %=4.8
5-14	4,386	Fall N=1,102 %=25.1	Struck By N=480 %=10.9	Poisoning N=325 %=7.4	MVT Occupant N=297 %=6.8	Pedal Cyclist, Other N=296 %=6.7
15-24	13,764	Poisoning N=2,882 %=20.9	MVT Occupant N=2,784 %=20.2	Fall N=1,383 %=10.0	Struck By N=1,175 %=8.5	Cut/Pierce N=80 %=5.8
25-44	26,225	Poisoning N=6,377 %=24.3	Fall N=4,234 %=16.1	MVT Occupant N=3,024 %=11.5	Cut/Pierce N=1,462 %=5.6	Struck By N=1,455 %=5.5
45-64	28,771	Fall N=10,262 %=35.7	Poisoning N=4,288 %=14.9	MVT Occupant N=2,381 %=8.3	Struck By N=1,061 %=3.7	Cut/Pierce N=761 %=2.6
65-74	14,227	Fall N=8,457 %=59.4	MVT Occupant N=778 %=5.5	Poisoning N=723 %=5.1	Overexertion N=337 %=2.4	Struck By N=287 %=2.0
75+	48,493	Fall N=36,711 %=75.7	MVT Occupant N=1,225 %=2.5	Poisoning N=993 %=2.0	Overexertion N=681 %=1.4	Struck By N=612 %=1.3
All Ages	138,282	Fall N=62,826 %=45.4	Poisoning N=15,873 %=11.5	MVT Occupant N=10,604 %=7.7	Struck By N=5,168 %=3.7	Cut/Pierce N=3,569 %=2.6

Reported percents are within age groups.

Sources: Injuries in Pennsylvania, County Profiles 2005, Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Erie County Department of Health