

**Application for Re-Designation as a  
Safe Community through the  
International Safe Communities Network  
WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion**

**Springfield & Greene County, Missouri  
United State of America  
2012**



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# Application for Re-Designation as a Safe Community through the International Safe Communities Network WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion

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## FORM A: Application and Checklist for the Results of Applications and Site Visit

### Community Overview

#### Springfield-Greene County, Missouri

Original designation for Springfield, Missouri. This application includes an expansion to include Greene County in the designation.

#### SECTION A:

##### 1. Briefly describe the community and its historical development.

Located in Southwest Missouri, Springfield-Greene County boasts a population of over 277,000. The county seat is Springfield, the largest community with a population of almost 161,000. Greene County is the fourth most populous county in Missouri while Springfield is the third largest community in the state.



Greene County location in Missouri



Springfield, MO

Organized in 1833, Greene County was named after the American Revolutionary War General Nathanael Greene. The County covers an area of 677.8 square miles of which 674.97 is land and 2.82 square miles is water. In addition to Springfield, there are 15 other cities and towns in Greene County. Springfield, nicknamed the Queen City of the Ozarks, is the birthplace of Route 66. Springfield's founder, John Polk Campbell, staked his claim in 1829 and Springfield was incorporated in 1838. Springfield-Greene County is the hub of the Springfield Metropolitan Area which comprises not only Greene County but the surrounding counties of Christian, Dallas, Polk and Webster with a total population of 435,000.

##### 2. Describe the strategy, ambitions, objectives and work in the community in regard to safety.

State wide unintentional injury is the 5<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death, while in Greene County it is the 6<sup>th</sup> leading cause following heart disease, all cancers, deaths attributed to smoking, stroke and other cerebrovascular disease, and chronic respiratory diseases.

As for intentional injuries and deaths, the leading cause of assault related deaths state wide and within the county are due to firearms. This also holds true to hospitalizations state wide, but injuries due to fights are the leading cause of emergency room visits both state wide and in the county, as well as hospitalizations in Greene

County. Self-inflicted injuries and deaths are highest among the 35-64 age group for both the state and county in relation to deaths and hospitalizations. Emergency room visits related to self-infliction are highest among the age group of 20-34 for both.

With unintentional injury being the 6<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Greene County, our efforts are primarily focused on the elimination of unintentional injuries through utilizing our strategic partnerships and collaborations between government, private and public agencies. Various other agencies, and most also involved in the Safe Community Coalition, work towards education and elimination of intentional injuries through numerous programs. While unintentional injury is a priority Springfield-Greene County also has numerous programs that focus on intentional injury and the Coalition strives to include these programs in our efforts.

**How are the Mayor (or similar function of the community) and the executive committee involved? Who is chairing the cross-sector group?**

Greene County is governed by a County Commission with a Presiding Commissioner and two additional Commissioners representing districts. Each department within county government is led by an elected official. Springfield is based on a Council/Manager type of government. Eight Council members are elected for a four-year term and the Mayor is elected for a two-year term. The City Manager is appointed by the Council to be the chief administrative officer of the city. Both the City and the County have endorsed the re-application for designation and the expansion to include the County.

The Springfield/Greene County Safe Community Coalition is co-chaired by a City Councilman and a representative of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce. A County Commissioner participates as a member of the Coalition.

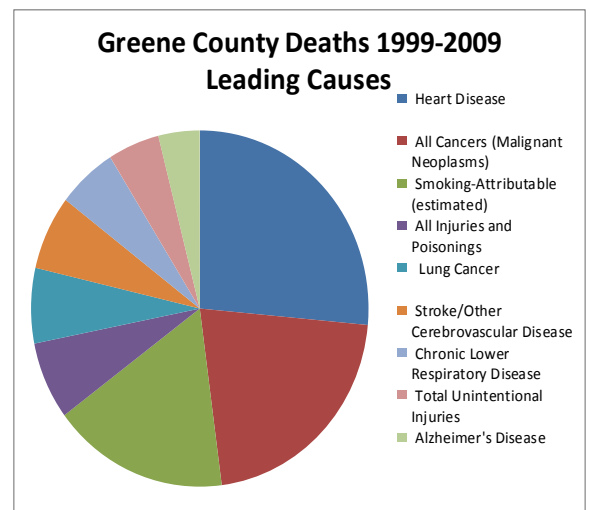
Both the City Manager and County Commission are supportive of the re-application for Safe Community designation and the expansion to include Greene County in the designation. They have both had a significant impact on moving forward with the application through their participation and/or funding of the effort.

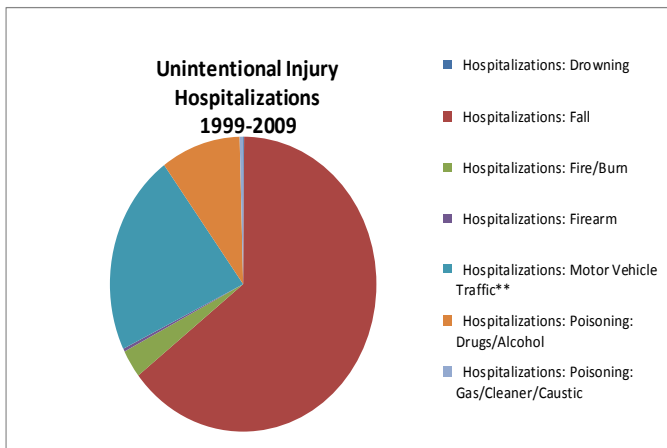
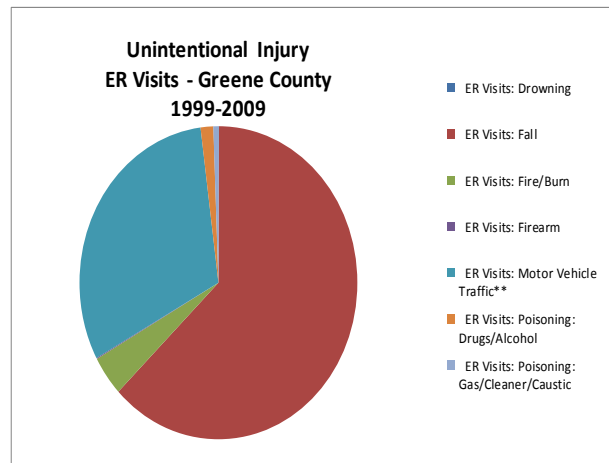
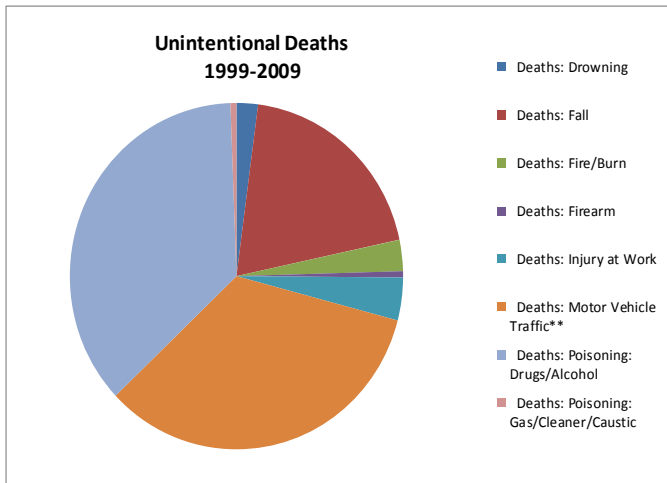
The Co-Chairs of the Coalition have also been involved throughout the process and have worked diligently towards achieving re-designation.

**3. Describe the injury risk-panorama in the community.**

Data from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS) shows that unintentional injury is the 6<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Greene County between 1999 and 2009 (latest data available).

According to MDHSS Greene County experienced 1,321 deaths from unintentional injury during 1999-2009 with the leading cause being poisoning by drugs and alcohol followed by motor vehicle crashes. During this same time frame there were 258,040 emergency room (ER) visits. Falls were the leading cause of ER visits followed again by motor vehicle crashes. As for hospitalizations, falls and motor vehicle crashes were the top two causes of injury in a total of 15,872 hospitalizations.





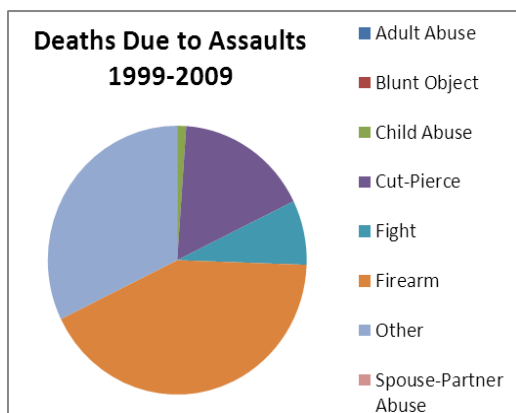
\*Source date for charts: Missouri Department of Health

According to local data from the Springfield-Greene County Health Department as reported in the Springfield-Greene County Safety Report Card (see attached) the leading injury rate per 100,000 for each age group is as follows.

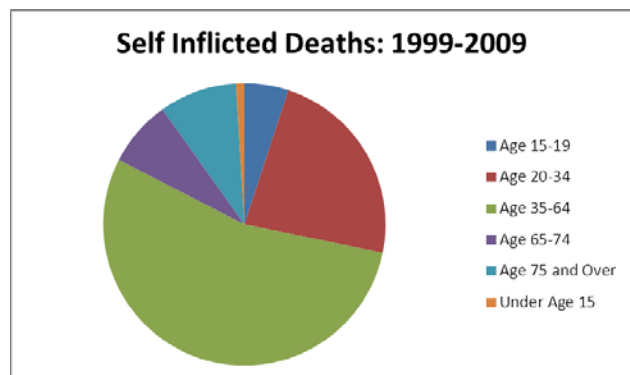
Age	Cause	Rate
<15	Fall/Jump	4225.8
15-24	Struck By/Against	2490.1
25-44	Fall/Jump	3343.3
45-64	Fall/Jump	2813.9
>64	Fall/Jump	5797.6

Fall/Jump includes those injuries received when a person descends abruptly due to the force of gravity and strikes a surface at the same or lower level.

Struck By/Against includes injuries resulting from being struck by (hit) or crushed by or by striking (hitting) against a human, animal, or inanimate object or force other than a vehicle or machinery.



Excluding the category of "other" the leading cause of deaths due to assaults is from firearms. Suicide is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death. Deaths due to self-infliction are highest among the age group of 35-64 years olds.



## SECTION B: Structure of the Community

### 1. Describe the demographic structure of the community.

According to the U. S. Census Bureau the 2011 estimated population of Greene County is 277,214 while the estimated 2011 population of Springfield is 161,000 Springfield-Greene County is the hub of the Springfield Metropolitan Area which comprises not only Greene County but the surrounding counties of Christian, Dallas, Polk and Webster with a total population of 435,000.

In the 2000 census, Greene County had a population of 240,391. The population has grown almost 35,000 between the official census years of 2000 and 2010 with an additional 2,000 in growth estimated in 2011.

	Greene County	Springfield
Population, 2011 estimate	277,214	160,660
Population, 2010	275,174	159,509
Population, per cent change, 4/1/10-7/1/11	0.7%	0.7%
Persons under 5	6.1%	6.0%
Persons under 18	21.0%	18.3%
Persons 65 and older	14.2%	14.5%
Female, per cent 2011	51.3%	51.5%
White, per cent 2011	91.8%	88.7%
Black, per cent 2011	3.1%	4.1%
Hispanic or Latino, per cent 2011	3.2%	3.7%
High School Graduates, % of persons age 25+	88.6%	86.6%
Bachelor's degree or higher, % of persons age 25+	27.5%	25.6%
Housing Unites	125,387	77,620
Homeownership rate, 2006-2010	61.8%	50.9%
Households, 2006-2010	112,993	70,167
Persons below the poverty level, % 2006-2010	16.2%	21.7%
Land in square miles	675.3	81.72
Persons per square miles	407.5	1951.8

Based on 2010 data

### 2. Describe the safety promotion/injury prevention (SP/IP) at present and the plans for the future.

The City of Springfield and Greene County are committed to safety promotion and injury prevention as evidenced by the myriad programs that address all ages and environments within the County. The commitment and investment was made five years ago when Springfield received the original designation as a Safe Community. Since then the Coalition has grown to include representatives from Greene County. The continued commitment has been made through the application for re-designation and the expansion to designate Springfield and Greene County.

Both the City Manager and County Commission are supportive of the re-application for Safe Community designation and the expansion to include Greene County in the designation. They have both had a significant impact on moving forward with the application through their participation and/or funding of the effort.

The various agencies will continue to collaborate on program development, delivery and evaluation based upon successful results of each program. These are outlined in more detail in this application and on Form B.

The overall goals of the Springfield-Greene County Safe Community Coalition include

- Prepare and submit re-application for Safe Community designation every 5 years.
- Prepare and submit an annual report of activities as required by Safe Communities America
- Prepare and update the Springfield-Greene County Safety Report Card as needed to maintain knowledge of the status of injury prevention in Springfield and Greene County.
- Highlight various injury prevention programs during regular Coalition meetings.
- Encourage participation in activities related to Safe Communities America, The Pan Pacific Network and The International Safety Community Network.
- To prepare, in cooperation with the National Safety Council, a communication plan for the Springfield-Greene County Safe Community.
- Work to create a comprehensive evaluation process of the injury prevention efforts in Springfield and Greene County.
- Work to create a process for sharing data and trends among the various programs in Springfield and Greene County.
- Review injury patterns as a result of programs that have been implemented in Springfield and Greene County.

**3. Describe the support for sustained injury prevention of the local politicians in the community and which parts of the program have been undertaken and/or supported by the regional government.**

As mentioned earlier Greene County is governed by a County Commission and Springfield is managed by a City Manager under the direction of a Mayor and City Council. These agencies provide sustained support through participation on the Safe Community Coalition. Each government entity regulates various aspects of the injury prevention efforts including but not limited to fire, law enforcement, emergency planning, traffic and roads.

**4. Describe the strategic program concerning the safety promotion and injury prevention work, which has been formulated.**

Each agency within the Safe Community program focuses on their primary indicators for unintentional and intentional injury, and all of their efforts come together under the Safe Community Coalition for review, discussion, future planning and recommendation. Some examples of our safety promotion and injury prevention work include the drug take back program and the pedestrian/school bus safety program.

The Community Partnership Regional Support Center has been addressing medication abuse since 2002 by providing education materials and presentations and coordinating *Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet* campaigns. In 2009, through their collaboration with other Regional Support Centers around the state of Missouri, state level prevention organizations, the Drug Enforcement Agency, and local coalitions in their 21 county service region, CPO's Advocates for Better Communities coalition hosted the first medication take back event in Southwest Missouri. Since November 2009, CPO has provided technical assistance and educational materials to over 30 communities and coalitions as they coordinated medication take back events, where over 6,600 pounds of medications were collected for safe disposal.

The Springfield Safe Community Coalition also received a grant from First Group to develop a *pedestrian/school bus program*. This was accomplished with the help of the Safety Council of the Ozarks, Springfield Public Schools, Safe Kids Coalition, Springfield Parent Teacher Association, The Walking School Bus, SMC Packaging Group, Springfield Traffic Engineering Department and Springfield Police Department. This program included the development of a mat, working traffic light, school bus with extendable arm and props for a walk-through education program teaching children about crossing streets safely and safety around school buses. Curriculum from Safe Kids was use for the program.



The *Risky Behaviors* program provided by Cox Health focuses on a variety of at risk behaviors including sexual assault and suicide. These programs are provided to 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students not just in Springfield and Greene County but surrounding counties where Cox Health has a presence.

The violence prevention programs through the Springfield Public Schools are facilitated by school counsellors. The *“Too Good for Violence”* program is provided to kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Topics are handled in a positive, age appropriate manner, using cooperative learning, role play, and other interactive, experiential teaching techniques. It focuses on conflict resolution, anger management, respect for self and others and effective communication. *Programs for grades 9-12* include Are You a Bully, Cyberbullying, Extreme Bullying: The Truth About Hazing, Blow Ups and Rages: Learning to Manage Your Anger, Pushed to the Brink: Bullycide on the Rise, and Bully Bystanders: Can You Make Difference.

**5. Who is responsible for the management of the SP/IP program and where are they based in the local political and administrative organization?**

The Safe Community Coalition is currently co-chaired by John Rush, Springfield City Councilman and Gary Fender, SMC Packaging Group and representing the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce. Members on the coalition represent a cross segment of those working for injury prevention and include both major hospitals, law enforcement agencies, fire department, school/university safety, city traffic engineering, Red Cross, County Commission, Emergency Management, Safety Council, Safe Kids, insurance, utilities, office on aging and a community coalition building agency. Both governmental agencies are represented on this Coalition through various department representatives and government leaders.

The current list of members includes:

**Coalition Co-Chairs**

Gary Fender  
Director of Safety, Compliance, Lean  
Manufacturing  
SMC Packaging

John Rush  
Councilman Zone B  
City of Springfield

**Coalition Members:**

Harold Bengsch  
Associate Commissioner, District 1  
Greene County

Debora S. Biggs  
Executive Director  
Safety Council of the Ozarks

Brad Bodenhausen  
Executive Vice President  
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce

Jim Brookhart  
Vice President Human Resources  
St. John’s Health System

Dr. David Bundrick  
Vice President Student Development  
Evangel University

Mandy Buetngen  
Traffic Engineering  
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Safety and Security  
Drury University

Jonathan Gano  
Public Works, City of Springfield

Daphne Greenlee  
Safe Kids Springfield

Lt. Brian Phillips  
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Yolanda Lorge  
Grupo Latinoamericano

Bernard McCarthy, Ph.D.  
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Institute  
Missouri State University

Rozlyn McTeer  
Nurse Clinician  
Trauma Services, CoxHealth

Debi Meeds  
America Red Cross

Ryan Nicholls  
Springfield-Greene County Office of  
Emergency Management

Captain Mike Penland  
Greene County Sheriff

Joe Robles  
State Farm Insurance

Mark Struckhoff  
Council of Churches

Tom Tucker  
Director of School Police  
Springfield Public Schools

Randy Villines  
Assistant Fire Chief  
Springfield Fire Department

Kendra Findley  
Springfield-Greene County Health  
Department

Chief Paul Williams  
Springfield Police Department

Gay Wilson  
Springfield-Greene County Library

## **6. Which is the lead unit for the SP/IP program?**

Greene County and the City of Springfield.

## **7. Is the Safe Communities initiative a sustained program or a project?**

The Springfield/Greene County Safe Community Coalition is a sustained program. The Coalition is committed to the continuation of injury prevention efforts and this is evidenced by the re-application for Safe Community designation and the expansion to include Greene County in the re-application. This expansion demonstrates a desire to continue our efforts, to grow the public knowledge about Safe Communities and to reenergize the Coalition. The re-application and expansion will allow the Coalition to include an area that is already covered by many of the programs working within the Springfield area.

## **8. Are the objectives decided by the local politicians covering the whole community? Which are they?**

The Springfield/Greene County Safe Community Coalition is representative of various agencies and governmental entities that collaborate on all objectives. The primary objective of the Coalition is the reduction of unintentional and intentional injury and death of all citizens within Springfield and Greene County. The role of the Coalition is to promote programs within our city and county in order to increase the visibility of injury prevention efforts. The goals of the Coalition include

- Prepare and submit re-application for Safe Community designation every 5 years.
- Prepare and submit an annual report of activities as required by Safe Communities America
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- Work to create a process for sharing data and trends among the various programs in Springfield and Greene County.
- Review injury patterns as a result of programs that have been implemented in Springfield and Greene County.



## 9. Who have adopted these objectives?

All agencies participating in the Springfield/Greene County Safe Community Coalition which includes the following and represents government, private sector and public agencies covering all age groups and environments.

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SMC Packaging

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Springfield-Greene County Office of  
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State Farm Insurance

Mark Struckhoff  
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Kendra Findley  
Springfield-Greene County Health  
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Chief Paul Williams  
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Gay Wilson  
Springfield-Greene County Library

## 10. How are the Safe Community objectives evaluated and to whom are the results reported?

The objectives are evaluated through the Springfield/Greene County Safety Report Card (see attached) and reported to all Coalition members. It was found that there is a further need to not only encourage all members to look at their programs with a critical eye and insure that proper evaluation is completed but to develop a comprehensive evaluation process for the Coalition to review the injury prevention panorama in Springfield and Greene County in order to document the outcomes of the programs. This will be added as a goal for the Coalition to accomplish.

## 11. Are the economic incentives in order to increase safety used? If yes, how are they used?

Funding for many safety programs come to the community through outside sources. A few examples are:

The Springfield Safe Community Coalition received a grant from First Group to develop a *school bus/pedestrian safety program*. This was accomplished through the development



of a task force to discuss and determine the type of program to be offered. The result was a “walk through” program that targets elementary age students. The equipment, which is available to all School Safety Officers and other agencies, was developed and purchased through the grant funds.

The Fire Department has applied for several *Fire Prevention Grants*, one of which was for dual sensor alarms to be installed in targeted areas of the city where structure fire incidents are high and the residents are typically in the poverty income category. They have also received donations, from the Sertoma Club, of smoke alarms for the hearing impaired.

The Springfield Police Department receives grants from the Missouri Department of Transportation Highway Safety Division for various enforcement programs that include:

- ***DWI Enforcement***: Provides funding for overtime enforcement or saturation patrols which puts more officers on the streets during targeted times.
- ***Sobriety Checkpoints***: Provides funding for setting up and staffing sobriety checkpoints throughout the city.
- ***Hazardous Moving Violations***: Provides funding to overtime enforcement targeting hazardous moving violations; speeding, careless and imprudent, running red lights, etc.
- ***Underage Drinking Enforcement***: Provides funding for additional enforcement of any alcohol related offense pertaining to minors; minor in possession, open container, driving while in possession/intoxicated, etc.

The Safety Council of the Ozarks has received local donations from businesses to *purchase car seats* that are provided to economically disadvantaged families. The Council also received a grant from the Allstate Foundation to purchase a vehicle and provide support for establishing a *behind-the-wheel driver training program* for youth. This program provides hands on experience behind the wheel of a vehicle for new teen drivers. Mercy Hospital received a grant from the Kohl’s Foundation to also establish a *behind-the-wheel driver training program*.

The voters of Greene County have recently passed a 1/8 cent sales tax to enhance Law Enforcement in the county. Part of that enhancement is the addition of 18 patrol deputies which in turn increases the fleet by 18 patrol cars. Funding was budgeted for 18 additional in-car cameras and the Greene County Sheriff’s Department will be partnering with the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety to purchase the needed software and licensing for these cameras.

The Greene County Sheriff’s Department is also in the process of forming a *Regional DWI Task Force* that would include not only the Sheriff’s Department but the Police Departments of Republic, Springfield, Bolivar, Ozark and Nixa and the Sheriff’s Departments of Stone and Christian Counties. Funding for a Ford F-150 4 Door 4WD pickup to pull the cone trailer and/or light tower unit to checkpoints is being requested from the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety.

The *Safe and Sober program*, which raises awareness among students and parents of the dangers of underage drinking and drug use, has received funding through the Coalition. Because of the program’s success, additional funding has been made available to take the program state-wide.

## **12. Are there local regulations for improved safety? If so, describe them.**

The City and County are governed by state and federal laws as well as local ordinances. These include numerous regulations targeting traffic safety and rules of the road as well as traffic engineering requirements for

adequate signage, road structure and construction. Numerous building regulation codes are also in place to insure safe construction of all types of buildings.

One example of a local ordination/regulation is **fire codes**. The City of Springfield adopted the 2012 edition of the International Fire Code (as well as the 2012 International Building Codes). Fires on apartment balconies are a problem and there is a city ordinance in place that prohibits the use of open flame grills on apartment balconies. City ordinance also requires landlords to ensure tenant is provided working smoke alarms in their rental home. The ordinance requires the tenant to ensure that the alarm is maintained.

There are also a myriad of **traffic regulations** that have been put into place to help insure the safety of everyone on the roads. These focus on proper vehicle handling on the roads – yielding the right-of-way, signalling, improper turns, following too closely, careless and imprudent driving, and more. Specifically a few examples are summarized here:

- Sec. 106-199. - **Seat belt regulations**: requires drivers to wear a properly adjusted and fastened safety belt that meets federal National Highway, Transportation and Safety Act requirements. This regulation also requires children 4 years of age or more, but less than 16 years of age, in the front seat of the motor vehicles to be secured in a properly adjusted and fastened safety belt. State law also requires safety belt and child safety seat use.
- Sec. 106-205. - **Driving while intoxicated** or driving with unlawful blood alcohol content: No person shall drive or operate a motor vehicle while in an intoxicated or drugged condition. No person shall drive or operate a motor vehicle with one-tenth of one percent (0.10%) or more by weight of alcohol in his blood.
- Sec. 106-191. - **Stopping for school bus**; markings and signaling devices on school buses: The driver of a vehicle upon a highway, upon meeting or overtaking from either direction any school bus which has stopped on the highway for the purpose of receiving or discharging any schoolchildren and whose driver has in the manner prescribed by law given the signal to stop, shall stop the vehicle before reaching such school bus and shall not proceed until such school bus resumes motion, or until signaled by its driver to proceed.
- Sec. 106-203. - **Careless and imprudent driving**: Every person operating a motor vehicle upon the public streets and highways within the city or upon any public or private parking lot, or parking lot for the use of customers, business invitees or employees of commercial or industrial establishments, shall operate the vehicle in a careful and prudent manner, exercising the highest degree of care, and shall operate the motor vehicle at a rate of speed so as not to endanger the property of another or the life or limb of any person.

## **SECTION C: Indicator 1**

### **1. Describe the cross-sector group responsible for managing, coordinating, and planning of the SP/IP program.**

The Safe Community Coalition is co-chaired by John Rush, Springfield City Councilman and Gary Fender, SMC Packaging Group and representing the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce. Members on the coalition represent a cross segment of those working for injury prevention on the area to include both major hospitals, law enforcement, fire, school/university safety, city traffic engineering, Red Cross, County Commission, Emergency Management, Safety Council, Safe Kids, insurance, utilities, office on aging and a community coalition building agency. A list of all coalition members is attached to this application. Both governmental agencies are represented on this Coalition through various department representatives and government leaders.

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Chief Paul Williams  
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Gay Wilson  
Springfield-Greene County Library

## 2. Describe how the local government and the health sector are collaborating in the SC/IP work.

The Springfield/Greene County Health Department is jointly managed and funded by both the County and City. With six area hospitals, more than 800 physicians and an array of clinics, Springfield is the hub of health care in Greene County and Southwest Missouri. The health care industry employs 20,000 people. Springfield's "Medical Mile" is home to two of the nation's top integrated healthcare networks, CoxHealth and Mercy, numerous outpatient surgical centers, mental health facilities, home health care services, long-term nursing facilities and health information and education resources." (Source: Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce Website). Both Cox Hospital and Mercy are Level 1 Trauma Centers.

Representatives from both major hospitals serve on the Springfield-Greene County Safe Communities Coalition. Both hospitals also have an *extensive array of programs* that are available to the community for education purposes.

The *Meyer Center for Wellness and Rehabilitation* is a 90,000 square foot facility of CoxHealth Fitness Centers. The facility offers a medical fitness components that offers members such things as free screenings/assessments, educational opportunities and many other services to further assist your pursuit for a healthy lifestyle. A few of the additional facilities and services include:

- 6-lane lap pool and warm water therapy pool
- indoor rubberized track
- massage therapy
- individual health assessments, exercise prescription and personal training
- corporate fitness
- disease management
- nutrition services
- training groups
- sport specific conditioning
- outdoor adventure training
- team training
- seniors program and kids' club (free babysitting)
- classes
- community activities

Mercy/Kohl's Injury Prevention Center provides *teen driving lessons* which includes a minimum of 6 hours to a maximum of 40 hours of behind the wheel driver training. These one on one lessons are flexible to fit the schedule of the teens and their families. Through the *Injury Prevention Program* at Mercy, activities including "Schools on the Move...Step Club", car seat program, bike and ATV safety and more Mercy reaches over 80,000 people each year with various educational programs.

**3. How are NGOs: Red Cross, retirement organizations, sports organizations, parent and school organizations involved in the SC/IP work?**

The Red Cross and Southwest Missouri Office on Aging are represented on the Springfield/Greene County Safe Community Coalition. "The Southwest Missouri Office on Aging is (the) leading source for programs, services, and information specifically designed to help older adults and their caregivers. SWMOA has been serving thousands of seniors in southwest Missouri since 1973 through the many programs, senior centers, and numerous services (they) offer." (SWMOA website) The Springfield Park Board, representing sports organizations, has been represented and due to a change in leadership this participation is in transition. While local parent and school organizations like the PTA – Parent Teacher Association, are not represented on the Coalition, they have been involved in various activities. One example is the development of the School Bus-Pedestrian Safety Program which was made possible by a grant from First Group. Various agencies including the School Police, PTA, Safe Kids, City of Springfield and a parent representative of the Walking School Bus Program served as an advisory and planning committee for this project.

**4. Are there any systems for ordinary citizens to inform about risk environments and risk situations they have found in the community?**

Various avenues exist for citizens to report situations they see that pose a risk to the community. The Federal OSHA program exists for all employees to report work place hazards. While this is a federal program, OSHA – Occupational Safety and Health Administration, is the governing body that is responsible for assuring "safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women by setting and enforcement standards by providing training, outreach, education and assistance." (OSHA website)

Locally the City of Springfield and Greene County have other avenues available to the citizens including:

- Roadway hazards: Springfield Traffic Engineering, Greene County Highway Department and Missouri Department of Transportation.
- Traffic Hazards: Springfield Police Department, Greene County Sheriff's Department and Missouri State Highway Patrol.
- School Safety: Springfield Public School Police, Safe Schools Program, Safety and Security Departments at the Universities.

**5. Describe how the work is organized in a sustainable manner.**

The Springfield-Greene County Safe Community Coalition meets quarterly to review program and data information. Representatives also participate in national meetings and trainings including the annual Safe Community America Conference and site reviewer training.

## SECTION D: Indicator 2

1. Describe the sustainable work in regard to SC/IP in the following areas and how the different sectors including specific NGOs are involved in the work.



**Safe Traffic:** Traffic crashes in Springfield have declined over the years. This is due to the various agencies that work to promote safe traffic in Springfield and Greene County. The Springfield Police Department and the City of Springfield Traffic Engineering Department are constantly *examining traffic crash data and enforcement statistics in an attempt to proactively prevent and reduce the number of crashes occurring within the city.* The best example of effective roadway design and advanced Traffic

Engineering is the ongoing implementation of the innovative **Diverging Diamond Interchanges (DDI)**. The City of Springfield has been at the nationwide forefront of the use of DDI Design and has received accolades for increase of traffic flow through these intersections and the drastic reduction of serious crashes, which can primarily be attributed to eliminating the need for the left-turn across opposing lanes required at traditional intersections.



The Springfield Police Department stresses enforcement of traffic laws as one of its primary missions. All Uniform Operation Bureau (U.O.B.) officers are involved in **proactive and reactive (post-crash) traffic enforcement.** The Traffic Services Section, which is a division within the U.O.B., **focuses enforcement on hazardous moving violations** by attempting to identify problem locations or types of violations, which may be causative factors in the number of traffic crashes observed. The Springfield Police Department has applied for and received over \$175,000 in federal National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (N.H.T.S.A.) to be applied to enforcement of hazardous moving violations, as well as enforcement of Driving While Intoxicated laws. During the 2011-2012 N.H.T.S.A. (h.m.v.) grant campaign, Springfield Police Officers made 2896 traffic stops, issued 2301 citations and 1318 warnings. The **DWI enforcement** grant resulted in 1744 traffic stops, 194 Driving While Intoxicated arrests, 803 citations, and 1234 warnings. The Springfield Police Department also has one full-time officer directed toward D.W.I. enforcement.

The Greene County Highway Department is committed to providing safe roads for the traveling public, and strives to meet all standards and regulations related to safety.

Additional programs include:

**Drive Responsibly** campaign: Public Works and the Safety Council of the Ozarks partner to display Springfield crash statistics on large bill boards to raise awareness among drivers. The board informs of total crashes, injury crash and fatality crashes. New this year is a supplemental plaque that shows the amount of traffic fatalities in connection with alcohol and other drugs.



**Crash and Safety Awareness:** Springfield Public Works releases a monthly crash report card combined with a safety message. The safety messages are targeted at winter safety, pedestrian safety, bike safety, etc.

**City-wide intersection improvements:** The City of Springfield is working on low-cost but impactful improvements to intersections to make them safer for motorists and pedestrians. MoDOT is currently converting the third interchange into a “Diverging Diamond Intersection”, which is an innovative intersection design which has greatly reduced the amount and severity of crashes.

**Sidewalk Program:** The City of Springfield created a new program, under the recently renewed 1/8-Cent Transportation Sales Tax, which will fund sidewalk construction City-wide. Previously, the only funded sidewalk program was the school sidewalk program which provides sidewalks within ½-mile of elementary and middle schools in the City. The goal of this new program is to fill in gaps which exist in the current system, and provide new sidewalks in areas of greatest need. When building sidewalks, Public Works avoids placing them adjacent to the curb if possible. Providing a minimum 2 foot buffer zone between sidewalk and street has been adopted as a safer practice.

**Rail Crossing Safety:** Springfield Public Works is currently working with Burlington Northern Rail Road to make rail road crossings safer for pedestrians and motorists City-wide.

**Sign Replacement Program:** The Public Works Department is proactive in switching out old traffic signs with high reflectivity signs that are easier seen by motorists, bicyclists and pedestrian.

**Bicycle Connectivity and The Link:** Springfield Public Works is working together with the Ozark Greenways and the Ozark Transportation Organization to promote safe biking by providing designated lanes marked with the “LINK” logo and signs along the roadside. Education plays an important role to promote mutual respect between bicyclists and motorists.

**Traffic Calming Programs:** The Public Works Department has developed a traffic calming program that engages individual neighborhoods to work with City Traffic staff to find solutions to neighborhood traffic issues. The goal is to reduce traffic speeds and volumes in problem areas. Public Works also continues to look at larger, City-wide traffic calming such as the 25 MPH Residential Speed Limit program, which keeps residential neighborhoods marked at 25 MPH (rather than 30 MPH) to protect pedestrians.



Springfield's first **Transportation Management Center (TMC)** was established in 1998 by the City of Springfield and Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT). In March 2011, the City and MoDOT (Missouri Department of Transportation) moved into the new Transportation Management Center of the Ozarks. The new TMC provides oversight of the joint City/MoDOT signal system and Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) field devices in Springfield; however, the Center is designed to expand to incorporate additional Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) in MoDOT's Southwest District and potentially other local regional hubs. The primary goals of the new TMC are to increase customer service, improve system-wide safety, and reduce system congestion and greenhouse gas emissions. The new TMC is another **City of Springfield/MoDOT partnership** in a long line which demonstrates the commitment by both organizations to providing a safe and efficient Transportation System for all users in the Springfield Region. It has brought City and MoDOT engineers under a single roof in a modern, accessible facility. The two major functions of the TMC — monitoring traffic and operating the signal system — go hand-in-hand and will benefit the traveling public by being in a shared space that is designed to increase capabilities and improve jurisdictional communications.

**Safe Homes and Leisure Times:** The Springfield-Greene County Park Board focuses on *outdoor safety* such as *spelunking, sports, bicycling, pedestrian, and swimming* to name a few. The Springfield-Greene County Park Board, outdoor sports retailers, and local outdoor recreation groups hold events that educate on and encourage outdoor safety. Topics include *snake and wildlife encounters, hypothermia prevention, and water safety*.

Cox Hospital is implementing a *fall safety program* to work with communities in identifying at risk individuals and determining fall hazards.

The Springfield Police offers *Neighborhood Watch* courses for neighborhoods to keep their homes and family safe. When course has been successfully completed, the neighborhood receives custom neighborhood watch signs.

The Community Partnership (CPO) Regional Support Center has been addressing medication abuse since 2002 by providing education materials and presentations and coordinating *Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet* campaigns. In 2009, through their collaboration with other Regional Support Centers around the state of Missouri, state level prevention organizations, the Drug Enforcement Agency, and local coalitions in their 21 county service region, CPO's Advocates for Better Communities coalition hosted the first medication take back event in Southwest Missouri.

Since November 2009, CPO has provided *technical assistance and educational materials* to over 30 communities and coalitions as they coordinated medication take back events, where over 6,600 pounds of medications were collected for safe disposal.

In September 2011, CPO's coalitions began installing *permanent drop sites* for community members to dispose of medications anytime. In less than a year's time, over 1,300 pounds have been collected at eight drop sites. Four additional drop sites have been placed during the remainder of 2012, and collection numbers will not be known on these sites until a later date.

The number of partner organizations that CPO has worked with over the years are too numerous to count. They estimate over 200 partners in the last 2 ½ years.

**Safe Children:** *Car seat safety* is a major program in the area and there are *four fitting stations* that check for proper installation. These include Cox Hospital, Mercy Hospital, Safety Council of the Ozarks, and Ozarks Technical College.

The *Safe Kids Coalition* focuses on children safety issues for the ages of 0-15 years. The programs they implement include 1.) *Safe Kids Boot Camp* - a week long safety education program teaching children about poison, water, home pedestrian safety and much more; 2.) *Walk This Way* - a school based pedestrian safety program; 3.) partnering with the Springfield Fire Department in *carbon monoxide and fire alarm education and installation*, and 4.) many more. They also offer *free online seminars for coaches and teachers* to help identify injuries such as concussion and over-exhaustion in children and teenagers. Safe Kids also holds *free reading sessions* at local libraries. Each booklet's topic evolved around safety. This agency and the local hospitals and other agencies have *child safety seat technicians* who help install or check for child safety seat installation. Replacement seats are also available if necessary.

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts focus on safety through the *merit badge work*. The hospitals implement a variety of programs as does the Community Partnership of the Ozarks, law enforcement agencies and several others.



The **Healthy Living Alliance** works together with **smoking cessation** experts to bring classes to parents in Title I schools. While parents receive the support in cutting out tobacco, children receive nutritional lessons in a different room. The Healthy Living Alliance also facilitates **afterschool programs** such as break dancing to keep children off the street.

The Red Cross offers **baby-sitting classes**.

Springfield Public Works has a **School Sidewalk Program** to provide sidewalk within half a mile of an elementary school.

**Safe Elderly:** The Southwest Missouri Office on Aging is a major source for program, services and information specifically designed to older adults and their caregivers. SWMOA is committed to helping older adults experience the highest quality of life. Other programs focused on older adults are through the hospitals including a **fall prevention** program through Cox Hospital. They also have a pilot program to aid in identifying fall prevention strategies in surrounding communities. The goal is to help the community identify at risk individuals and correct the fall hazards.

**Safe Work:** The Safety Council of the Ozarks, a chapter of the National Safety Council, provides **occupational safety training** programs and services to businesses through Springfield and Greene County. The goal of this training is to provide businesses with the knowledge and skills needed to maintain a safe environment for their employees, to train their employees on safe work practices, to educate them about local, state and federal regulations focused on occupational safety and more.

Numerous businesses develop and implement **safety programs** to protect their employees from work place hazards. One example is through Greene County where workers perform **“toolbox” talks** on a regular basis. Safety training is given to Greene County employees on a regular basis to keep them aware of hazards they may occur.

Another example of employee work safety is the City of Springfield that has recently started to train their staff about how to handle situations with armed intruders. The Springfield Police Department teaches **“Run – Hide – Fight”** classes to help prevent injury or death in such events.

The City of Springfield is currently working on getting their workforce **CPR/AED** certified.

The City has placed **AEDs** strategically in City buildings and is under contract with a private company to provide services, such as the lesson materials for the employees. The City Leaders want to set an example for businesses and promote CPR training to other employers in the area.

**Violence Prevention:** Several agencies in Springfield and Greene County work to prevent violence. Most notably is the local law enforcement agencies, but others include the **Victim’s Center** serving victims of violent and sexual crimes, the **Child Advocacy Center** working with children who have physical or sexual abuse, witnessed crimes, and exploitation through the internet. These agencies along with the Springfield Police Department, Springfield Prosecuting Attorney Office, Springfield-Greene County Health Department, Evangel University, Missouri State University, Cox Hospital and Mercy Hospital all serve on the **Springfield Sexual Assault Response Team**.

**Suicide Prevention:** Cox Hospital provides the program **Risky Behaviors** which targets adolescents and deals with several topics including suicide. Counseling centers are available to work with individuals who are considering or have attempted suicide.

**Disaster Preparedness and Response:** The Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management received national accreditation from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) in April 2012 and is *one of only 13 local programs nationwide* to be accredited by EMAP. EMAP is an independent and voluntary evaluation of state and local emergency management programs based on national best practices.

Springfield-Greene County recently opened a new \$19.7 million **Public Safety Center** in August of 2012. This Center houses the Springfield-Greene County 9-1-1 and the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management. The building includes an emergency operations center where more than 70 federal, state and local response agencies can coordinate and sustain 24/7 operations during a disaster event.

The Springfield-Greene County OEM has several disaster preparedness and response programs in place which include:

- **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**
- **Hometown Ready**
- **Ozarks Ready**
- **Facility Assessments**
- **StormReady**
- **Public Education Presentations**
- **Continuity of Operations (COOP)**
- **Hazardous Materials Flow Study (see attached)**
- **All Hazards Mitigation Planning**



The Greene County Office of Emergency Management is facilitating CERT classes (Community Emergency Response Team). These classes teach disaster preparedness to safeguard your own family and how to safely help others in time of need.

The local Transportation Management Center and the new office of Emergency Management have been **built with disaster preparedness in mind**. The two facilities were designed and built to support each other in order to keep both organizations operational if one of the centers was destroyed.

The Greene County Highway Department conducts annual “**snow plow drills**” and fire drills and has contracts for debris removal in the event of a natural disaster.

**Safe Public Places:** The City of Springfield is working with the Springfield Fire Department to make 2013 the year of the AED (automated external defibrillator). **AEDs are being placed in all city government facilities** and the department will work with businesses to get them on board with AEDs. **Improved pedestrian safety signage** has been installed at numerous locations to improve visibility and safety.

Springfield Public Works has recently renovated Park Central Square, which includes an inner landscaped, sunken plaza to serve as a site for events, with traffic circling around the outside. The square had previously been home to undesired activity, so the design of the square was altered so that all areas are now more open with better visibility into and out of the inner square. In addition, Police Officers are assigned to that area and free public events are scheduled to improve community value of the square.

**Safe Hospitals:** The two largest hospitals in Springfield and Greene County are Cox Hospital and Mercy, both **Level I Trauma Centers**. Both are heavily involved in not only **health education** but all aspects of safety and provide a variety of community education programs as well as have representatives serve on various community safety oriented committees, task forces, etc. Some examples include education provided to the **Victim’s Center**

**Advocate Mandatory Training** on the topic of **Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE)**. They participate in SANE Training of new nurse examiners attending a 40-hour program from internal, regional, and outlying hospital systems. Programs are provided on **helmet safety, car seat safety, water safety and ATV safety** and programs have been initiated to bring safety devices such as ATV and bike helmets and life jackets to those in need.



**Safe Sports:** Not only does the Springfield-Greene County Park Board focus on sports safety through training and certifications, but **sport safety programs** are also available through Safe Kids for coaches, school nurses and athletic directors.

**Safe Water:** The Springfield-Greene County Park Board, through its many park programs, provides **lifeguard training and swim lessons** throughout the year. All pool areas, indoor and outdoor, are clearly with **pool rules**.

**Safe Schools:** The Springfield School District maintains a **School Safety Committee** at each school. This committee consists of multiple school staff. The Springfield Public Schools and the Springfield-Greene County Park Board have a partnership that offers several safe opportunities for the children in Springfield. The Schools and the Park Board share outdoor facilities such as a walking track and playground equipment at many of the schools calling them **School Parks**. These are provided in many areas where the community would not have access to park properties and a safe place to play. The **SPARC** (School, Parks and Reaching Communities) program is also a shared program that promotes opportunities for youth and families through after-school, recreational enrichment, summer camps, special outings, and increased availability of joint school-park facilities. **CLICK** is a federal, state and local grant-funded partnership between the Park Board and the Schools, providing opportunities for youth and families through after-school, enrichment, and summer camp programs. In addition to the Park Board-School Partnership the Boys and Girls Clubs of Springfield offer **after-school and summer programs** for children 6-17 picking up students from approximately 28 school sites during the school year and providing transportation to three locations in Springfield. The three locations during the summer are held at Springfield Schools. Another **before and after-school child care program** is provided by the Y. These are also provided at various school locations. All these guarantee the safety of school children.

The **School Crossing Protection Committee** is made up of city, school and community members from both Springfield and Greene County for the purpose of identifying locations where crossing guards are needed to assist school kids across streets safely. Decisions on sidewalk construction and locations as well as making recommendations to improve take up and dismissal procedures at local schools are discussed.

Through a grant from First Group a **School Bus/Pedestrian Safety program** was created and is delivered to kindergarten through second grade students. The Rotary Club in Springfield provides the **“Don’t Meth With Me Program”** to fifth graders and talk about the dangers of meth. Programs offered by the Guidance and Counselling staff at Springfield Public Schools are included on Form B.

## **2. Describe the work with genders, all ages and all environments and situations. Describe all activities like falls prevention and how the work is done.**

As the local law enforcement agencies, the Springfield Police Department and the Greene County Sheriff’s Department work with all age groups within the community. Their work touches everyone on a daily basis. The Springfield-Greene County OEM complete **Facility Assessments** for in place shelter recommendations upon request from businesses, schools K-12, nursing homes, day cares and more. Presentations on **general preparedness** is also provided to all age groups. The Springfield Fire Department is instituting the

“**Remembering When**” program from the National Fire Protection Association – fire and life safety for senior citizens which includes a big emphasis on fall prevention. **Fire and Life Safety Education** is presented annually to elementary schools in Springfield. **Annual fire and life safety training** is provided by the Springfield Fire Department to Missouri State University for Residence Assistants working in the residence halls. The Safe Kids Coalition focuses on children 0-15 years while the hospitals and the Office on Aging provides programming for older adults. Teen programs are prevalent and include the **Safe and Sober Campaign** promoting alcohol free driving during high school prom activities, the **Underage Drinking Task Force** that focuses on underage drinking. These are just a few examples of programs that reach all age groups in Springfield and Greene County.

## **SECTION E: Indicator 3**

### **1. Identify all high risk groups and describe what is being done to increase their safety.**

Because motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death for teenagers and drinking and driving is a major contributor to this issue. **Underage Drinking Enforcement Programs** have been in use by local law enforcement agencies (Springfield Police Department, Greene County Sheriff’s Department, Missouri State Highway Patrol) for many years. Underage consumers of alcohol are deemed “high risk” and are more likely to become involved in injurious situations such as alcohol-related traffic crashes, alcohol poisoning, alcohol dependency, etc. These projects are grant funded through the Missouri Department of Transportation, Highway Safety Division and are administered in a similar manner as the **H.M.V. (Hazardous Moving Violations) and D.W.I (Driving While Intoxicated) programs**. Although not strictly focused on university students in the area, this program has been highly-visible to students and those organizations susceptible to ubiquitous underage drinking.

The **Underage Drinking Enforcement Program** is a two- pronged approach to reducing the instances of alcohol consumption by minors. First and foremost, it is an education program. First-offense violators are allowed to attend a “diversion” program, which is educational in nature and geared toward the prevention of future transgressions. When successfully completed, the violator will have no criminal record. Secondly, the underage drinking enforcement program employs punitive sanctions for repeat offenders. Offenders with prior violations are not offered the diversion program, and are required to be adjudicated criminally. In addition, they are required to answer for any prior violations.

Additional programs that target teens are **Risky Business and Risky Behaviors**. Risky Business is offered once a year and is geared towards adolescents that are preparing to drive. This program covers the topics of distracted driving, driving under the influence (drugs and alcohol) and the consequences associated with those actions. Risky Behaviors, also geared toward adolescents, is offered by Cox Hospital in partnership with Springfield and Greene County Schools. This program focuses on texting, driving distracted and under the influence, skittle parties, bullying, cyber bullying, sexual behaviour and suicide.

A national program targeting youths in crisis, **Safe Places**, is operating in Springfield. This is a community collaboration program, operated by youth shelters and youth serving agencies. It provides youth access to help at locations including fast food restaurants, convenience stores, fire stations, libraries and city buses which display the Safe Place sign. These locations connect youth with immediate help, safety and to supportive services for both youths and their families. Eighty safe place sites, including 30 city buses, are now available to help kids in crisis get needed help.

The Springfield Fire Department also implements programs reaching “high risk” groups including lower income individuals with the **free smoke alarm program, free hearing impaired smoke alarms** for the hearing

impaired as funds are available, and *free Residential Safety Surveys* to residents wanting a fire crew to come inspect their houses for fire and life safety issues.

The Springfield *Safe Kids Coalition* works with Hispanic families for *car seat education and distribution* in partnership with WIC – Women, Infant and Children and the Hand In Hand Multicultural Center. They also work with the Head Start program to help low-income families obtain affordable car seats.

The Missouri State Plan for the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act requires every school district to designate a *Homeless Coordinator*. The Springfield Public Schools has such a coordinator who works with homeless families to assure that children and youth have the best opportunities to continue their education.

There is a growing minority and multi-lingual population in Springfield and Greene County and the *Hand in Hand Multicultural Center* works with families to improve their health and wellbeing and serve the underprivileged, minority, ethnic and bi-lingual communities.

Other programs that provide safety for high risk populations include the *snow-plowing* by the City and County which enhances public safety on the roadways. “*High water*” flip signs are placed in areas that are prone to flooding. The Springfield Public Works places *pedestrian push buttons* with voice directions at intersections that are known to be frequented by blind citizens.

The Community Partnership (CPO) Regional Support Center provides education materials and presentations on prescriptions drug overdose and coordinates the *Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet* campaigns. Through a collaboration with other Regional Support Centers around the state of Missouri, state level prevention organizations, the Drug Enforcement Agency, and local coalitions in their 21 county service region, CPO’s Advocates for Better Communities coalition hosted the first medication take back event in Southwest Missouri this program has collected over 6,600 pounds of medications for safe disposal. Eight permanent drop boxes have also been installed collecting 1,300 pounds of medications.

## 2. Give examples of high risk environments.

*Lower socioeconomic classes of citizens tend to have a greater preponderance of smokers.* These individuals tend to be renters and rent older houses. Careless smoking is the number one cause of fire fatalities in Springfield and thus this group tends to be the primary targeted risk group. A subset of this is careless smoking on apartment balconies and the Springfield Fire Department is *working with the Apartment Owners Association of Springfield* to try and find solutions to reducing or eliminating this problem. Ideas include information flyers to having the apartment building supply approved butt cans for the tenants.

*Hoarding by all socioeconomic groups* is a problem in Springfield. This somewhat closeted mental health issue, while brought to the forefront on reality television, has not received the focus it needs locally and solutions need to be researched and discussed.

*College housing* with students out of their parents’ houses for the first time is another high risk group. Fire and life safety is not a priority and this age group has the mental attitude that they are invincible, “nothing can happen to me.” The Springfield Fire Department conducts *annual trainings with Missouri State University Resident Assistants on fire and life safety issues*. They in turn educate the incoming students. This training is also provided on a smaller scale for Drury University. Representatives from the department are continually invited to any of the colleges for educational presentations. The national Campus Fire Safety website ([www.campusfiresafety.org](http://www.campusfiresafety.org)) and newsletter is promoted to these organizations. Buildings are inspected and/or pre-fire plans are developed on an annual or bi-annual basis.

Colleges and universities are also environments ripe for sexual assault and Cox Hospital partners with local campuses to bring the message of *sexual assault prevention* to the fraternities and sororities as well as other members of the student body. Lectures are provided to student nurses at local campuses on the topic of Sexual Assault. The Victim's Center also provides education and counselling on this issue.

## **SECTION F: Indicator 4**

### **1. Describe the evidence-based strategies/programs that have been implemented for different age groups and environments.**

Various agencies including the major hospitals, health department, Safe Kids Coalition, Safety Council, law enforcement and others collaborate to insure that car seats are installed properly. Each of these agencies has certified car seat technicians on staff and provide one-on-one installation checks as well as collaborate on community-wide check-up events. Through the community events approximately 300 car seats are checked annually for proper installation.

Tai Chi classes are offered through local businesses but also through the Meyer Center and Missouri State University. The City of Springfield has developed a wellness program utilizing "inBalance" to promote a healthier, safer life style among employees. The program makes use of health services, such as Health Risk Assessments through local hospitals or nationally known health and wellness firms. Physical fitness is promoted to not only achieve long-term health improvements and relieve stress, but also to prevent injuries that could occur as part of normal daily activities, such as lifting.

The Missouri Department of Transportation Highway Safety Division conducts safety belt use surveys throughout the state to determine the percentage of drivers and passengers that are buckling up in their vehicles. While there were no survey sites in Greene County in previous surveys, 20 locations will be included in the June 2013 state wide survey and local residents and representatives of various agencies assist with this survey. Child safety seat surveys, determining the number of children under the age of 4 years that are buckled in child seats, are also conducted and observation sites in Greene County has been included. In 2001 the usage rate for child safety seats in the county was 75%. The latest survey in 2009 showed an increase to 92% child safety seat use.

Missouri has a secondary safety belt law, which allows a law enforcement officer to stop and ticket someone for not wearing their safety belt only if they stop them for another traffic violation. Tremendous effort has been made for the past 20 years or so to push for a primary safety belt law in Missouri. Representatives from the hospitals in Springfield, the Safety Council of the Ozarks, law enforcement, attorneys and more have participated in these efforts through the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety. Efforts have included writing letters, visiting and making phone call to legislators to urge support of this law, participating in rally events, and working to educate the public in Greene County about the benefit of a primary safety belt law.

While the programs surrounding the issue of prescription overdose are not evidenced based, the County and City sees this as a growing problem and are working to provide programs that can be used to add to and help build evidence related to this issue. As mentioned earlier the Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet campaign has collected over 8,900 pounds of medicine through community events and permanent drop boxes.

2. **Has any contacts been established with ASCSC's, WHO CCCSP, other scientific institutions, or knowledgeable organizations about the development and/or implementation of evidence-based strategies? Which ones? What has been the extent of their counsel?**

The Springfield-Greene County Safe Community Coalition continues to explore evidenced based programs that are recommended through CDC Older Adult Falls Compendium such as *Tai Chi* and *inBalance*. Coalition members also work with the ASCS in the United States and regularly attend the Safe Communities America Conference where evidenced based programs discussed. Through Safe Communities America we have the opportunity to work and learn from other Safe Communities that have implemented evidenced based programs.

## **SECTION G: Indicator 5**

1. **What local data is used to determine the injury prevention strategies?**

Various data is used to include law enforcement/traffic engineering crash reports, hospital admissions and ER treatments, and health department reports.

The Springfield Fire Department utilizes Firehouse™ records management software to track all incidents. With this RMS we can analyze data to determine who the target groups are that need to be educated about fire safety. We can track the number of juvenile fire setters and we can see if the numbers are increasing or decreasing. We can track whether or not the individuals who had fires had working smoke alarms or not.

2. **Describe how data are presented in order to promote safety and prevent injuries in the community.**

All agencies utilize the local media to promote and educate the public about the leading indicators of unintentional injury. Other avenues are also used such as the Traffic Crash Report Card, Safe Kids Van, agencies newsletters, and more.



3. **Describe how the community documents and uses knowledge about causes of injuries, groups at risk and risky environments. How does the community document progress over time?**

Each agency maintains data for their programs. Traffic data is collected by the law enforcement agencies and traffic engineering. The Health Department and hospitals maintain data related to falls, emergency room and hospital admissions, and more. The Safety Council utilizes data collected through the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the National Safety Council and the Missouri Department of Labor. Other agencies maintain their own databases relating to the programs that they implement. Examples of how these are used include the Traffic Crash Report Card which tracks traffic fatalities and reports it to the public through the use of signs at intersections. This provides awareness, education and the ability to track how the community is doing and what programs need to be implemented to reduce fatalities. The implementation of Cox Hospital's fall prevention program in Springfield and surrounding communities will identify at risk individuals and work to correct fall hazards. Results will be tracked and used to improve the program and insure that the appropriate groups are being reached.

It has also become evident that the Springfield-Greene County Safe Community Coalition needs to develop a way to bring all the information together in a comprehensive evaluation process. This has been added to the goals for the Coalition and is a priority for the next five years.

## **SECTION H: Indicator 6**

### **1. How does your community analyse results from the injury data to track trends and results from the programs? What is working well and has given you good results. What are the plans to continue? What needs to be changed?**

One example of this is the Hazardous Materials Flow Study that is completed for the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and is conducted every 5 years. This is completed and documented by physically counting hazardous materials vehicles along major roadways/railways and creating a report on findings. A copy of the latest report is attached to this application.

Another example is the Springfield-Greene County Safety Report Card (copy attached) which was developed to help track trends. Each issue is given a rating that shows whether or not the trend is Promising (indicators are achieving or close to achieving desired result with sustained progress), Mixed (indicators are consistent progress in the right direction) or Challenging (indicators are not at an acceptable level and are showing insufficient progress). This is a new report and the timeline for updates is being discussed.

Springfield Public Works keeps track of injuries related to traffic crashes on a monthly basis. The data is compared to the previous year and released in form of a “Crash Report Card” to the public to raise awareness.

Public Works also tracks crash patterns at intersections and segments and tries to address those, especially when injuries are high or fatalities have occurred.

Public Works especially pays attention to pedestrian and bike crashes, as well as crashes involving children on school routes. To improve their safety, public education is most important, along with making changes to the infrastructure if needed.

Springfield tracks its total crashes each year and has been steadily decreasing crashes since 2002 (Except for 2007, the year of the ice storm). The increased traffic safety recorded despite increased traffic can be contributed to best practices in engineering (responsive and proactive) and public education.

While the many programs within the city and county have developed procedures to track the data and trends and to determine what programs are working or not, it became evident to the Coalition that there is a need for an improved process to share the data. An additional goal that has been added for the Coalition is to develop a process that allows for easy sharing in data and trend analysis for programs in the city and county.

### **2. Describe how the results from the program evaluations are used.**

In reference to the Springfield Police Department, the Traffic Section Commander is required to conduct an annual traffic analysis, which looks into causative factors in crashes, locations, identifying trends, alcohol-involvement, and all factors associated with a year’s worth of crash data. The Department works to mesh enforcement actions (also checking that data) with directed patrols efforts at high crash/risk locations. This goes hand-in-hand with implementation of the Hazardous Moving Violation grant that provides funding for overtime enforcement of the most common hazardous moving violations – speeding, running red lights, careless and imprudent driving, etc. Properly directed traffic enforcement (and DWI enforcement) has been proven to have a notable effect on crash rates.

The Traffic Engineering Department with the City completes the annual crash data evaluation, the “Crash Book” that shows the locations with the highest number of crashes and the locations with the highest crash



rates. These are used to compare city wide totals over the years in order to determine a trend. This trend is used to implement engineering and enforcement programs based on the type of crashes and the locations.

Another example focuses on occupational safety. With management support and increased emphasis on training, incentive and enforcement programs, SMC Packaging Group, a corrugated manufacturer, began making headway towards a safer working environment. Lean Manufacturing began in 2006 with a heavy emphasis on safety. Fiscal year 2010 saw the implementation of the Performance Bonus Program from which performance is measured and used to calculate quarterly bonuses to employees. The five Matrixes of the Program include: On Time Delivery, Problem Reports, Waste, Up Time and Safety – all weighted equally. Programs are evaluated and if they are not meeting their goal steps are taken, such as added education and training, to remedy the issue. All this has paid off for SMC and its employees. The AICC Converters Operation Safe Shop Competition ranked SMC 49 out of 50 in overall incidents in 1998. This was the result of 28 recordables. The 2012 third place ranking was based on all the hard work that has gone into their safety program since then and is a result of 5 recordables in 2011 with zero recordables year to date in 2012.

### **3. Describe the changes in pattern of injuries, attitudes, behaviour and knowledge of the risks for injuries as a result of the programs.**

The Safety Report Card is the best indicator of the changes in patterns showing a comparison between Greene County and the State of Missouri. For example motor vehicle crashes show a downward trend in crashes for 15-14 year olds but an upward trend for younger than 15 and older than 24. Programs to address these areas need to be developed and implemented. The trend for the indicator for Poison/Overdose is similar and programs are being discussed for implementation in 2013.

The Coalition also participated in Coalition Sustainability Survey conducted by the National Safety Council. The purpose of this survey was to determine strength and weaknesses of the Coalition and will be building from the results of the survey. One of the first goals as we move into the next five years of designation is to focus on a review of injury, attitudinal and behavioural patterns as a result of programs that have been continued or implemented in Springfield and Greene County. From this we will work to determine any changes in injury trends or in patterns of attitudes or behaviours that emerge from this process.

## **SECTION I: Indicator 7**

### **1. Describe how the community has joined in and collaborates in national and international safe community networks.**

The Springfield-Greene County Safe Community Coalition is a member of the Safe Community America Network and has participated in the past three national conferences. A representative from the Coalition participated in the 2008 International Safe Communities Conference in New Zealand and the international aspect has been incorporated into our local awards program. A representative of the Coalition is a Certified Site Reviewer and has participated in four (4) site reviews for international designation for communities in the United States.

The Springfield Police Department is heavily involved in the International Associations of Chiefs of Police (I.A.C.P.). Senior management are members and attended a recent convention. The Springfield Police Department is also a member of The Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (C.A.L.E.A.). S.P.D. has had continuous accreditation status for 15 years, and has been designated as a “Flagship” agency due to the notable level of compliance with standards

The Springfield Fire Department is Accredited through the Center for Public Safety Excellence/Commission on Fire Accreditation International. The Springfield Fire Department is one of just over 160 Fire Departments in the World that have successfully achieved accredited status. The Greene County Office of Emergency Management is Accredited through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP).

There is only one other city in the United States (as far as we are aware) that has all three organizations (Police, Fire and Emergency Management) accredited, which demonstrates the professional quality of services the city/county has to offer in helping keep the citizens safe.

**2. Will the designation ceremony coincide with any international conference, seminar or other forms of international or national exchange?**

This ceremony is tentatively scheduled to coincide with a local Safe and Sound Expo and Arts Fest Celebration. Safe and Sound is an expo sponsored by a local television station and will focus on safety services, programs and activities in our community and county. Arts Fest is a local festival focusing on the arts. Both events are expected to draw thousands of citizens to the downtown area.

**3. Which already designated Safe Communities will be invited for the designation ceremony?**

Our designation ceremony will be announced and we are hopeful that other communities will participate.

**4. Which international conferences and national Safe Community conferences has the municipality participated in?**

**Springfield Safe Communities International Activities**

<b>2008</b>		
25-Mar	SMARTRISK program	Asset Building: Is it Worth the Risk?
26-Mar	Children's Mercy Hospital	Reception/Discussion with Dawn Spinks, Australia Safe Communities
October	International Safe Communities Conference	Christchurch, New Zealand
November	Site Reviewer Certification Training	Winnipeg, Manitoba
<b>2009</b>		
February	Site Visit & Review	Itasca, Illinois, USA
May	Springfield Safe Community and Injury Prevention Awards	Judges from: US, Canada, New Zealand, Sweden
June	Keynote Presentation	2009 Maryland Injury Prevention Summit
October	Tlaquepaque, Mexico	Sister City visit to Springfield and info presentation on Safe Communities
<b>2010</b>		
April	Site Visit & Review	Hagerstown, Maryland, USA
August	Safe Communities America Conference	Workshop presentation
October	Safe Community Keynote Panel Presentation	NSC Congress, San Diego, California, USA
<b>2011</b>		
August	Safe Communities America Conference	Participant
October	Site Visit & Review	Sullivan County, Tennessee, USA
<b>2012</b>		
August	Safe Communities America Conference	Participant
October	Site Visit & Review	Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky, USA
December	Designation Ceremony	Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky, USA

**5. In which Regional Network for Safe Communities is the community a member or planning to seek membership?**

Pan-Pacific Network of Safe Communities