

BEST PRACTICES & QUANTIFIERS FOR SENTINEL CONDITION: UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES

1. IDENTIFY RISK

*These definitions correspond to the questions required by DHS referring to helmets and seatbelts.

Seatbelt

NOT A PROBLEM: If a student reports that he/she always appropriately wears a seatbelt when riding in a car as a passenger or a driver (ie: lap and shoulder belt if available).

MINOR PROBLEM: If a student reports one or more improper uses of a seatbelt when riding in a car as a passenger or a driver (ie: only lap belt when should strap available).

MAJOR PROBLEM: If a student reports one or more instances of non-use of a seatbelt when riding in a car as a passenger or a driver.

Helmet: We propose to expand the helmet question to include protective gear, equipment and sports injuries, etc. Gear and equipment would include sports helmets, padding and safety goggles.

NOT A PROBLEM: If a student reports that he/she always uses proper protective gear/equipment as appropriate.

MINOR PROBLEM: If a student reports one or more instances of improper use of protective gear/equipment.

MAJOR PROBLEM: If a student reports one or more instances of not using proper protective gear/equipment.

2. BEST PRACTICES FOR INTERVENTIONS

- a. It is suggested that interventions follow the Center for Disease Control's Guidelines for School Health Programs: Preventing Unintentional Injuries and Violence (see attached summary).
- b. Below are specific examples and resources that correspond to CDC's recommendations where a school health center can make the most impact:
 - i. Health Education:
 1. Medical residents, physical therapist conduct education on safety
 2. Participate in national safety campaigns (SafeKids)
 3. Public service announcements, newsletters
 4. Health fairs
 5. Gender and health specific topic groups related to safety (ie: applied technology teachers orientation with students)

6. Collaborate with coaches and physical education teachers before/during practice and high-risk activities
7. One on one patient education
8. Appropriate hand-outs and videos available
- ii. Health Services
 1. Sports physicals/screenings
 2. Referrals to agencies/groups
 3. Assessment and anticipatory guidance
 4. Coordinate with teachers, security guards and guidance counselors
 5. One on one patient intervention
 6. Peer support/counseling
 7. Appropriate follow-up
- iii. Crisis Response
 1. Participate in school safety committee
 2. Be a part of school's crisis plan/emergency response plan
- iv. Family & community involvement
 1. Newsletters
 2. Information at orientation, report card pick-up days, open houses.
- v. Staff Development
 1. Provide an in-service for staff and faculty
 2. Coordinate with staff (coaches, drivers education, applied technology, etc) to ensure safe environments.

3. RESOURCES

- National Safe Kids Campaign, P: 202.884.4993, www.safekids.org. Catalog of injury prevention materials and strategies available.
- Prevention First Illinois-offer free posters and literature. Offices in Springfield (1-800-252-8951) and Chicago (1-800-572-5385)
- The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety: 703.247.1500. Develops and distributes films, videotapes, research reports, and other publications.
- Education Development Center, Inc, Childhood Injury Prevention Resource Center: P: 617.969-7100. Disseminates information and provides technical assistance to State and local maternal and child health agencies and academic programs seeking to develop or expand childhood injury prevention programs. Provides education, research, and resource materials.
- Children's Safety Network, Child and Adolescent Injury Prevention Resource Center: P, 202.625.8400. A national resource for child and adolescent injury prevention activities. Publications available.
- Safe USA: www.cdc.gov/safeusa or 1.888.252.7751
- American Academy of Pediatrics, unintentional injury, <http://www.aap.org/policy/734.html>, <http://www.aap.org/policy/re9926.html>, <http://www.aap.org/policy/re9832.html>.
- Illinois Department of Public Health www.idph.state.il.us
- Illinois Department of Transportation www.dot.state.il.us

