

**To:** *Advisory Committee for Injury Prevention and Control (ACIPC)*

**From:** *Working Group on Injury Control and Infrastructure Enhancement (WGICIE)  
Barak Wolff, Working Group Chairperson*

**Subject:** *Acceptance of Final Draft Infrastructure Definition*

**Date:** *November 18, 2004*

---

The attached document represents the initial work of the ACIPC Working Group on Injury Control and Infrastructure Enhancement (WGICIE).

**Purpose:** This Working Group was created pursuant to a full committee discussion within the ACIPC during its Spring, 2002 meeting that infrastructure for injury and violence prevention and control is inadequate and desperately in need of improvement. We began with the ambitious charge that the Working Group would define injury and violence prevention and control infrastructure, consider critical infrastructure needs, review the gaps in addressing these needs, and develop strategies for improvement and enhancement.

The attached document reports on the first phase of this project – a definition of what constitutes infrastructure in different domains within the Federal, state, local, and tribal governments and within academic environments. Although it is clearly recognized that injury and violence prevention and control is practiced in many other domains and that there are many other stakeholders, it was decided to initiate this effort focusing on the governmental sectors that most often fulfill the over arching core functions and essential services of public health in regards to the injury field.

**Approach:** Once charged, the Working Group reached out to include representatives from the various levels (Federal, state, local, tribal and university) to participate in our deliberations. In this initial effort, we examined other reports in injury control and public health more broadly to identify elements and frameworks useful in defining infrastructure. We discussed among ourselves and with selected others to refine our ideas. Our draft definition has been regularly shared with the ACIPC. It was our intent to be comprehensive but not overly detailed.

**Next steps:** We believe that there are several logical and critical next steps to continue this work in advancing the development of the injury control field.

- One, we recommend and request endorsement of this document by the ACIPC.
- Two, we recommend, as a next step, a modest-sized working meeting of invited leaders in injury control from the various sectors to review this definitional document and set the course for the next set of activities aimed at improving infrastructure. The purpose of this meeting would be to develop a set of concrete ideas designed to move forward the agenda of improving injury and violence prevention and control infrastructure in the United States. The WGICIE proposes to lead the planning for this meeting, in coordination with

other appropriate groups. Such a meeting might be “piggy-backed” on other scheduled activities such as the next ACIPC meeting in June 2005.

Potential strategies that might be considered in such a meeting include, but should not be limited to:

- A) Identification of current gaps in infrastructure at each of the levels outlined in the definition document. Such a strategy might involve key groups representing stakeholders (e.g. NACCHO, ASTHO, STIPDA, NAICRC, IHS) assuming leadership for assessing gaps in their specific domains of involvement and identifying: (1) areas of greatest urgency for attention and (2) appropriate methods of achieving success individually and collectively.
  - B) Development of a set of realistic budget proposals of resources for the incremental support required to enable the immediate, mid-term, and long term improvements.
  - C) Completion of a national level, objective review of the state of injury control infrastructure by an impartial group (e.g. Institute of Medicine), leading to a comprehensive, updated understanding of what improvements are required to move the field forward.
  - D) Publication and dissemination of the definition and related commentaries about moving forward in building infrastructure for injury control.
  - E) Development of an advocacy strategy to encourage increased attention of key decision makers and stakeholders to the issue of injury and violence prevention and control infrastructure.
- Three, we recommend that subsequent to the working meeting, the WGICIE will report back to the ACIPC regarding progress and recommendations for the future, including whether or not to reconvene an ACIPC Infrastructure Working Group.

We look forward to discussing this with the ACIPC and appreciate your support and encouragement.

Respectfully Submitted on November 17, 2004  
Barak Wolff