

**American Public Health Association  
Injury Control and Emergency Health Services Section  
APHA ICEHS Electronic News  
September 2006 Vol. 13 Issue 9**

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**Greetings from your new ICEHS Section Newsletter Editor John Lundell at the University of Iowa Injury Prevention Research Center. I am pleased to help share important information among the members of our section. Please send articles for future issues to me at *john-lundell@uiowa.edu*. Also thanks to Bella Dinh-Zarr with the MAKE ROADS SAFE organization for agreeing to distribute this electronic newsletter.**

## **SECTION NEWS**

Note from the Chair-Elect:

We are rapidly approaching what for many of our members is the busiest time of the year. APHA's 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will be held in Boston, MA from November 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>. The ICEHS Section is hosting 39 scientific and poster sessions, including over 150 presentations on topics that continue to demonstrate the Section's status as among the most diverse and relevant in APHA. Billie Weiss, as ICEHS Program Chair, and a company of other volunteers have worked tirelessly to make this year's program one that will appeal to all members, prospective members, and interested public health partners. Thank you, Billie for all your efforts!

Among the most important activities of our Annual Meetings are the Section's Business Meetings and Social Hours. As in previous years, ICEHS will have two business meetings, a member-new-member Welcome Breakfast, a Social Hour, and an Awards Dinner for all who are interested. On Sunday, November 5 from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM in BCEC 157C, ICEHS Leadership will conduct the first Business Meeting to review and act on a full range of important issues and opportunities facing the Section. Though primarily a forum for leadership activities, this meeting is open to interested members. The Section's general Business Meeting will take place Tuesday November 7 from 4:30 to 6:00 PM in BCEC 208 – we hope that you will make every possible effort to attend and contribute your insight and ideas toward our activities for the next year and beyond. Students and prospective members are also welcomed and encouraged to attend! And speaking of students and new members, I want to remind you of our "Welcome" and networking breakfast on Monday, November 6 from 6:30 to 8:00 AM in the BCEC160B – please consider "waking-up" with old and new friends, and steering students and prospective members to this event. Later Monday evening from 6:30 to 7:30 PM in BCEC Northwest Lobby Level 2 ICEHS will host its annual Social Hour. Of course the Annual meeting would not be complete without our Section's Awards Dinner immediately following the Business meeting on Tuesday, November 7 at 7:00 PM. This year's dinner will be held at the Harvard Club through the hard work of Renee Johnson (THANK YOU, Renee!), assisted by Anara Guard and many other members, in Boston and elsewhere. Tickets are \$48 for members and \$35 for students, and may be purchased at the Section's booth in the Exhibit Hall and at Section Business Meetings.

ICEHS has many urgent needs and opportunities this next year, and the participation of all Section Members is essential. In advance of our Business Meetings – and particularly for Members unable to attend this year's conference – please consider the many ways that you can actively participate in the Section's affairs. Examples include serving on (or Co-Chairing) one of the Section's many committees (see <http://www.icehs.org/leader.htm> for a listing), assisting with strategic planning and governance enhancement, participating in development activities, helping to develop educational and outreach activities, serving as a subject-matter expert to fulfill APHA's many requests for such services, and... well, there are countless other opportunities! Please make your willingness to serve known to any of our leadership – I also invite you to contact me directly with your questions, ideas, and offerings.

I hope to see many of you in Boston in November – and to keep in close touch with all our Members throughout the year in order to listen, learn, and lean-on!

Best,

Erich M. Daub  
ICEHS Chair-elect

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57 Executive Park Dr., #100  
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## **Posting on NCIPC Website**

Injury colleagues,

I wanted to make you aware of this new posting on our NCIPC web site under the "Data" heading.

The inventory of national data systems that provide injury or violence data is now up on the NCIPC web site.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/osp/InventoryInjuryDataSys.htm>

You might find it helpful in learning about national data systems in the US that provide useful data for injury and violence research...

Enjoy...  
J. Lee Annest, Ph.D.  
Director, Office of Statistics and Programming  
NCIPC, CDC

*~ J. Lee Annest*

## **Bullet Points – a Quarterly Firearms Research Newsletter**

Dear colleagues,

Below please find a letter from David Hemenway announcing the inaugural issue of Bullet Points, a quarterly firearms research newsletter that will focus on different topics within the field, followed by the first issue itself. As this issue was released via our website in the spring ([www.hsph.harvard.edu/hicrc](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/hicrc)), a new issue will be released soon. Please spread the word to others who may find this of interest. If you know of others who would like to be notified by e-mail when a new issue is posted on our website, they can sign up on our website. Thank you and we hope you enjoy the newsletter!

Spring issue can be found at: [http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/hicrc/pdf/BulletPoints\\_Spring2006.pdf](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/hicrc/pdf/BulletPoints_Spring2006.pdf)

Sincerely,  
Mary Vrinotis



# Harvard Injury Control Research Center

June 2006

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Some 30,000 Americans die each year in firearm-related injuries. We at the Harvard Injury Control Research Center are committed to doing research that informs prevention. But firearm injury is a broad area of research, crossing several disciplines and topical areas including policy, community practice, mental health, and others. It is a challenge to stay abreast of all the good research being conducted.

This marks the first issue of "Bullet Points", an update on firearms research provided by the Harvard Injury Control Research Center. "Bullet Points" represents our attempt to summarize the literature in firearm injury research in a fresh, readable way. With each issue we will examine one specific topic of firearm injury research and summarize the current research.

This issue reviews the evidence about whether safe firearm storage practices can prevent youth suicide. Because about a third of U.S. homes with children have guns, it is important to determine the protective value of encouraging those parents who have firearms to keep them stored unloaded and in a locked place.

We hope you enjoy this inaugural issue and that it stimulates your work in preventing firearm injuries in the US and beyond!

David Hemenway, PhD  
Director  
Harvard Injury Control Research Center

## **NATIONAL COALITION LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO KEEP CHILDREN OFF TRACTORS – AND SAFE**

The Childhood Agricultural Safety Network, a coalition of health and safety organizations, is delivering the following unified message to agricultural communities: children younger than 12 years old should NEVER be on or near a tractor. Tractors are the leading cause of fatal injuries to children on farms.

The Network wants to make a difference in protecting children. They are trying to preserve the best parts of agricultural tradition, but at the same time change social norms so that people view unsafe practices for what they are – unacceptable.

Downloadable posters, logos and fact sheets are available on the new dedicated website <http://www.childagsafety.org/>. By mid-October, a PowerPoint presentation will be online, as well as exhibit resources for outreach. The website also describes the Childhood Agricultural Safety Network and lists its members and their contact information.

As a health and safety advocate, YOU are encouraged to access the public awareness campaign posters and messages from the website and use them in your outreach activities.

Thank you for your support in transmitting the message that “It is easier to bury a tradition (i.e., kids on tractors) than a child.”

For more information, contact:  
Scott Heiberger, Communications Specialist  
National Children’s Center for Rural and Agricultural Health & Safety  
[heiberger.scott@mcrf.mfldclin.edu](mailto:heiberger.scott@mcrf.mfldclin.edu)  
Ph: (800) 662-6900

*~ Yvonne Cerne*

### **Pioneer in Injury Prevention, Carl Cyrus Clark, Dies at Age 82**

Carl Cyrus Clark, a pioneer in injury prevention, died on August 24 at age 82 in Thetford, Vermont. He was a renowned specialist in crash protection and acceleration. He conducted research that contributed significantly to the development of airbags. Ralph Nader, who relied on his findings for his own book *Unsafe at Any Speed*, said "people are safer because of his work. He did more for humanity than 99.9% of the world's scientists". Dr. Clark was the first person to test the effectiveness of air bags, using himself as the guinea pig. He also stayed on a centrifuge for 24 hours in 1957, to test human limits. Later in his career, he investigated the use of laminated glass to prevent ejections through the side windows of cars and trucks. He also worked on air bag bumpers that would deploy just before a crash and created wearable air bags for the elderly to guard against hip fractures.

*~ Anara Guard*

## Report on the “Call for Comments” on a Proposed Section Name Change

An article in the last newsletter requesting comments on a proposed name change for the section generated remarks in which the overwhelming majority agreed with changing the name—although not all to the suggested name, “Injury, Violence, and Emergency Services (IVES)”. A common theme of dislike for long names ran through the comments although some then proceeded to suggest a more encompassing name that, if adopted, would necessitate lengthening the name. A new selection of names emerged that included both shorter and longer names. Currently, there are five comments containing alternative names under consideration:

- 1) No name change, retain: “Injury Control and Emergency Health Services, (ICEHS)”
- 2) Name upon which comments were solicited: “Injury, Violence, and Emergency Services (IVES)”
- 3) Shorten the name: “Injury and Emergency Services”
- 4) Work in preparedness: “Injury, Violence, Emergency Services and Preparedness (IVESP)
- 5) Work in prevention and/or control: “Injury and Violence Prevention and Emergency Services (IVPES).

We feel this is an important issue and that all voices should be heard. Send your comments or a vote for or against the names included above, by placing "ICEHS Name Change" in the subject line of an e-mail addressed to Joyce Pressley at [jp376@columbia.edu](mailto:jp376@columbia.edu) with a cc: to Rene Johnson [REJOHNSO@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:REJOHNSO@hsph.harvard.edu). Comments received from now until November 3<sup>rd</sup> will be presented at the section business meeting where a vote is expected on the proposed name changes.

~ Joyce Pressley

## President-elect Candidate from ICEHS Section – Linda C. Degutis, DrPH, MSN

As you may know, I am running for President-elect of APHA. This is the first time that someone from the ICEHS Section has run for this office. I have been an active member of the Section since 1984, and in addition to serving as Chair, served as Program Chair for 2 years, Policy Committee Co-Chair for several years, and Newsletter co-editor back in the days when we were a SPIG. In addition, I have served on the APHA Executive Board for the past 4 years, and have chaired the Board for the last 2. My background has allowed me opportunities to be involved in a broad range of public health issues in addition to injury, and I have experience in various realms of public health including practice, research, education and policy. While APHA members do not directly elect officers and Executive Board members, you can help with my campaign. If you know anyone from another Section, SPIG or Affiliate who will vote (a member of the Governing Council), or who is in a leadership position in their group, please let them know about my candidacy. If you need more information, please contact me at [Linda.degutis@yale.edu](mailto:Linda.degutis@yale.edu). Thanks for your help!!!!

~ Linda Degutis

## **SAVIR PARTNERS TO PUSH INJURY/VIOLENCE RESEARCH MESSAGE AHEAD**

*How does a small, new, professional society advance the message of value in research-based injury and violence prevention? Partnerships!*

In its first year SAVIR has moved ahead the injury research agenda through partnering with other organizations such as: the Campaign for Public Health, Research!America, and Partnership for Prevention. These friends, although already favorable toward the message of *investing in injury and violence research deserves a higher priority in the public agenda*, may not have planned to aggressively make that argument.

Through cooperation with these partners SAVIR has been able to bring House finance related committee staff down to CDC to hear the Director of NCIPC present about the great work it is funding, hold a briefing for Congressional staff focused on the economic value of injury and violence research public investments, develop a print advocacy tool to further promote this message in communications on behalf of state and federal increases in the funding of public health research.

To view results of the latter two efforts (an article about the September 19<sup>th</sup> Congressional briefing and the new print tool for advocating investment in injury and violence research) click onto Research!America's web site at these links:  
<http://www.researchamerica.org/publications/articles/injurybriefing10-06.html>  
[http://www.researchamerica.org/publications/RA-Injury\\_f.pdf](http://www.researchamerica.org/publications/RA-Injury_f.pdf)

### **SAVIR SEEKS YOUR "PARTNERSHIP" TOO**

When SAVIR was introduced to the ICEHS Board in December 2005 it had only twelve members- the same injury research center directors as when it was "NAICRC". Now SAVIR has 80 members, including research centers and professionals from many areas involved in transportation, violence prevention, workplace injury, child maltreatment, product safety, trauma system improvement, etc. It now offers the types of services and activities you expect of professional associations, e.g., standing committees developing positions on critical issues, an official journal (through partnership with Injury Prevention), a national injury and violence research methods conference.

You are invited to partner with SAVIR. Even if you do not wish to become a member, SAVIR invites you to attend the:

#### **SAVIR Annual Business Meeting: November 4<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am to 4:00 pm**

Just prior to the opening of the APHA meeting, SAVIR will hold its annual business meeting Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, starting at 8:00 am in the Otis Room of the Westin's Waterfront Hotel. A significant part of the agenda will be in follow up to the October 10 mediated meeting that was held to further develop its strategic plan. As this plan will be in its formative stage, input from ICEHS members is both welcomed and encouraged.

*Bill O'Connell*



## Injury Control and Emergency Health Services

*NOTE: Sessions listed in italics have been organized by another section, SPIG, or caucus but are endorsed by Injury Control and Emergency Health Services.*

### Monday, November 6, 2006

#### **8:30 AM-10:00 AM Mon**

[3026.0](#) *Psychiatric Epidemiology* (Oral)

[3039.0](#) **Motor Vehicle Related Injuries** (Oral)

[3040.0](#) **Partnerships, Collaborative and Consortiums to Improve Public Safety** (Oral)

#### **10:30 AM-12:00 PM Mon**

[3110.0](#) *Impact of and Response to Gulf Coast Hurricanes* (Oral)

[3125.0](#) **Firearms and Domestic Violence Policy Implications** (Oral)

[3126.0](#) **Research** (Oral)

#### **12:30 PM-1:30 PM Mon**

[3167.0](#) **Disaster Preparedness Posters** (Poster)

[3168.0](#) **Unintentional Injuries Poster Session** (Poster)

[3169.0](#) **Youth Violence Posters** (Poster)

[3170.0](#) **Various Injury Topics** (Poster)

#### **12:30 PM-2:00 PM Mon**

[3203.0](#) *Research and Advocacy for Early Childhood Mental Health Services: The Together for Kids Coalition* (Oral)

[3208.0](#) *Violence Epidemiology: Violence in and out of the Home* (Oral)

#### **2:30 PM-3:30 PM Mon**

[3257.0](#) *Identifying Health Issues that Impact Disenfranchised and Vulnerable Populations* (Poster)

#### **2:30 PM-4:00 PM Mon**

[3309.0](#) *Survey Measurement Issues* (Oral)

[3323.0](#) **Data Roundtable** (Roundtable)

#### **4:30 PM-6:00 PM Mon**

[3395.0](#) *Assessing and Training the Workforce for Epidemics, Disasters and Bioterrorism* (Oral)

### Tuesday, November 7, 2006

#### **8:30 AM-10:00 AM Tue**

[4032.1](#) *Fall Prevention* (Roundtable)

[4039.0](#) **Emergency and Disaster Preparedness I** (Oral)

[4040.0](#) **Injury and Violence Prevention Policy Development and Policy Implementation** (Oral)

#### **12:30 PM-1:30 PM Tue**

[4087.0](#) *Developing Public Health Infrastructure to Address Acts of Bioterrorism and/or Pandemics* (Poster)

[4092.0](#) **Tools, Resources and Data Sources for Understanding and Preventing Injuries** (Poster)

**4093.0Violence Poster Session (Poster)**

**4094.0Late Breakers in Injury Control Poster (Poster)**

**4095.0Risks, Hazards, Falls and Other Injuries and the Data to Understand Them (Poster)**

**12:30 PM-2:00 PM Tue**

**4117.0Advocating for Public Health: Successful Models for Enacting Policy, Regulations and Legislation (Oral)**

**4128.1Record linkage for epidemiologic research: New opportunities and new challenges (Oral)**

**2:30 PM-3:30 PM Tue**

**4175.0Strengthening Local Health Departments for Preparedness and Addressing Health Issues (Poster)**

**2:30 PM-4:00 PM Tue**

**4215.0Evidence Based Policy and Practice (Oral)**

**4230.0Unintentional Injuries (Oral)**

**4231.0Violence, Including Youth, Intimate Partner, Child Maltreatment, Sexual Violence, Gang and Firearm Violence (Oral)**

## **Wednesday, November 8, 2006**

**8:30 AM-10:00 AM Wed**

**5040.0Planning for Epidemics and Preparing for Acts of Bioterrorism (Oral)**

**5054.0Surveillance (Oral)**

**5055.0Emergency and Disaster Preparedness II (Oral)**

**12:30 PM-2:00 PM Wed**

**5107.0Social Epidemiology: It's the Neighborhood! (Oral)**

**5108.0Epidemiology of Injury (Oral)**

**5117.0Late Breakers Oral (Oral)**

**5118.0UNITY: A National Violence Prevention Strategy (Oral)**

**2:30 PM-4:00 PM Wed**

**5170.0Suicide Prevention (Oral)**

**5171.0Emergency Preparedness at the Local or State Level (Oral)**

~ Bill Weiss

## **Change in Rooms for Business Meetings and Social Hour**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2006: 3:00 PM-6:00 PM**

BCEC Room157C

**(252.0) ICEHS Business Meeting**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2006: 6:30 AM-8:00 AM**

BCEC Room160B

**(304.0) ICEHS Business Meeting**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2006: 6:30 PM-7:30 PM**

BCEC Northwest Lobby-Level 2

**(326.0) ICEHS Social Hour**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2006: 4:30 PM-6:00 PM**

**Announcing the Annual ICEHS Section Dinner**  
**-- We have a lot to celebrate! --**

The 2006 ICEHS Dinner is almost upon us! This event is always a good time: catch up with your colleagues, applaud award winners, meet student members, and enjoy good food in the elegant setting of the Harvard Club of Boston. This year we'll also be celebrating SAVIR's first birthday!

Date/Time: **Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**

Location: **The Harvard Club of Boston (Main Clubhouse)**  
**374 Commonwealth Ave**  
**Boston, MA 02215**  
**(617) 536-1260**

<http://www.harvardclub.com>

*\* In the heart of the Back Bay, near Newbury St, and the Prudential & Copley Shopping Centers*

Nearby T **Hynes/ICA (Green Line), Copley (Green Line), Back Bay (Orange Stops: Line), or take the #1 Bus from Harvard Station (Red Line) or Central Square (Red Line)**

Cost: **\$49**

*\*The cost is reduced to \$35 for students, so please encourage them to come!*

Tickets will be sold at ICEHS Section Meetings and at the ICEHS booth, but save yourself the time and **send in your check now to reserve your ticket!**

Make your check out to: **Renee M. Johnson**

Mail your check to: **Harvard Injury Control Research Center**  
**Harvard School of Public Health**  
**677 Huntington Ave., Kresge 306**  
**Boston, MA 02115**

*\* Please include your contact information, we will send a receipt to you for your convenience.*

*\* Please indicate whether you prefer a vegetarian meal.*

**Questions?** Send an email message to me at: [rejohnso@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:rejohnso@hsph.harvard.edu) .

~ Renee Johnson

## **Volunteer Opportunities Available for ICEHS Booth at APHA**

ICEHS members will staff a booth at the 2006 American Public Health Association conference. Booth hours are: Sunday (11/5) from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday (11/6) and Tuesday (11/7) from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Wednesday (11/8) from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. In addition, if you are interested in booth set-up or tear-down, please let us know. There are still open slots for volunteers wishing to assist with booth staffing. Members can sign up prior to the conference by e-mailing Nancy Nachreiner at nachr001@umn.edu, contacting Renee Johnson (REJOHNSO@hsph.harvard.edu) onsite, or by dropping by the ICEHS booth beginning on November 5th. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow (and potential fellow) members, and to spread the excitement about our section!

*~ Nancy Nachreiner*

## **Get involved!!!!**

Now is the time to start thinking about becoming involved in APHA on an association level. In early 2007, APHA will be soliciting nominations for appointments to various APHA Committees and Boards. These will be announced on the APHA website and in *The Nation's Health*. Becoming active in these groups provides visibility for the Section, and also allows you to have a part in influencing the direction of APHA activities. Please consider getting involved.

*~ Linda Degutis*

## **Lisa Hyde Commended for Her Service to ICEHS**

ICEHS wishes to commend Lisa Hyde for her service as the section webmaster. Lisa, who resigned in early October, maintained the ICEHS website originally created by David Lawrence, for the past 3 years. Lisa left her employment at Intermountain Injury Prevention Center in Utah in early October hoping to complete a move to Texas before giving birth to her first child in November. We wish Lisa the best and invite her to send pictures.

*~ Joyce Pressley*

## **It Has Been a Pleasure**

I will no longer be able to serve as ICEHS webmaster after Friday the 6th of October. I am relocating to Houston and am going to be having my baby soon, so Friday is my last day. It has been such a pleasure working with all of you. The ICEHS section has afforded me so many wonderful opportunities over these last few years. I'm so sad I won't be able to see you all in Boston! Please keep up all the good work and inspiration!

Thanks, and my best wishes to all of you!

Lisa Hyde

*~ Lisa Hyde*

## ICEHS Webmaster Position Opening

ICEHS is recruiting a new webmaster following the resignation of Lisa Hyde. Duties, which would not begin until after the Annual Meeting in November, include adding the newsletter to the website monthly, updating elected officers annually, adding changes to contact information for leadership as needed, posting programmatic information for the Annual meeting, and regularly reviewing the website for missing information/issues that need addressing. If you are interested, know another member who has computer skills who might be recruited, or have further questions, please e-mail Erich Daub ([Erich\\_Daub@stchome.com](mailto:Erich_Daub@stchome.com)) and Joyce Pressley ([jp376@columbia.edu](mailto:jp376@columbia.edu)).

~ Joyce Pressley

## APHA Continuing Education Institute on Vulnerable Populations and Disasters

A CEI offering developed by the Harvard and Yale Centers for Public Health Preparedness is focusing on vulnerable populations in disasters. This CEI is scheduled for Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.. For more information go to:

[http://apha.confex.com/apha/134am/techprogram/session\\_19244.htm](http://apha.confex.com/apha/134am/techprogram/session_19244.htm)

~ Linda Degutis

## Join the Home Safety Council Expert Network

The Home Safety Council<sup>®</sup> (HSC) is the only national nonprofit organization solely dedicated to preventing home related injuries that result in nearly 20,000 deaths and 21 million medical visits on average each year. The Home Safety Council is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization located in Washington, DC. Through national programs, partnerships and the support of volunteers, HSC educates people of all ages to be safer in and around their homes. Among its programs are *The Great Safety Adventure* (a field trip on wheels), *Safety Rangers Say No To Dangers* (unintentional injury program for children in grades K-2 and their families), *Get Ready with Freddie* (disaster preparedness program for children in grades 3-4 and their families), the *Home Safety Literacy Project* (fire safety and disaster preparedness for adult literacy students) and *Safe Steps: A Falls Prevention Program for Seniors*.

The Home Safety Council Expert Network ([www.homesafetycouncil.org/expertnetwork](http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/expertnetwork)) is a free online resource designed specifically with safety educators' needs in mind. We'd like to extend an invitation to those involved in the American Public Health Association's Injury Control and Emergency Health Services to join. The Expert Network is frequently updated with new content as well as links to valuable teaching materials from other organizations. Downloadable, customizable teaching tools for people of every age are available to members, on demand, at no cost. Additionally, members of the Expert Network have access to selected hard copy educational materials sent through the mail. The majority of hard-copy video, DVD and print materials are free -- you just pre-pay the shipping and handling. Quantities of materials are also available to members for a modest production fee. Let's work together to prevent injuries in the home!

~ Angela Mickalide

## Archivist's Attic

Archivist's Attic: Sequel on Boston's Injury Control Historical Leadership (see ICEHS Newsletter, Archivist's Attic, May 2006)

For another historical 'tease' on our upcoming Annual APHA and Section Meetings, this year in Boston, here's a 1960's seminal evidenced-based causes and prevention short journal article, one of many assessed by Haddon in his classic *Accident Research. Methods and Approaches* (yes! he used the "A" word!), a unique historical leadership resource on aeronautical, motor vehicle, public and home injury control relevant to today's national environmental health-injury control nexus: *Edwin W. Brown.*

SPACE-HEATER HAZARDS *New England Journal of Medicine*, 265:794-795, 1961. In : *Accident Research. Methods and Approaches.* Haddon W, .Jr. (NYSDOH), Suchman, E. ( U of Pittsburgh) and Klein, D. (Association for the Aid of Crippled Children). Harper & Row Publishers, NY. 1964. 206-7.

Archivist's Summary of the paper: Beginning in November 1959, a series of kerosene fuelled space heaters fire records of the Boston fire department, showed 159 Boston homes with fifteen deaths and 16 major burn injuries, mostly to children. The problem was not unique to Boston, but the nature of the fires and injuries had to then not been clearly trended nor defined. The identified defective heaters primarily flooded the combustion chamber with forcing excess oil from the tank into the storage chamber. The heaters bore the seal of the Underwriters' Laboratory and subsequently was removed from its approved list. However, the problem of 40,000 similar units remained in Boston, alone. In response, the Boston Fire Department undertook in the summer and fall of 1960 a two fold program: the development of an inexpensive device that would resolve the cold-air expansion problem and a city wide educational program. As of March 15, 1961, only 6 space heater fires were recorded in Boston during that heating season.

Here's Haddon's main review of the paper: "The brief report excellently illustrates (1) the retrospective observation and reporting of a long-standing environmental hazard; (2) the deliberate and successful search for the pertinent characteristics of either the device or its use; (3) a hazard resulting from the design and construction of the device rather than from its use in ways unanticipated by its producers—it being assumed here that it is reasonable to expect that an oil heater should not explode simply because its tank is only partially filled; (4) the institution of a countermeasure program which included intensive public education, the search for and development of a mechanical control device, and the cessation of manufacture; and (5) the virtual elimination of these accidents through the first of these countermeasures in the remarkably short period of less than one year. However, the elimination of the problem in *all* areas could probably not be achieved with this educational approach. Rather, it would be much simpler and more effective to redesign the offending mechanism. This is an important point to note in the face of widespread attempts to offer public education as a remedy for the consequences of poor design."

In synopsis, here's Haddon's final comments: The paper illustrates that it is sometimes possible to solve accident problems with straightforward and uncomplicated approaches and ignoring more academic approaches (see June Newsletter Archivist Attic , for other examples); however, consider controlled research to determine whether the characteristic is more often associated with such injury or only rarely, to avoid considerable work.

May all our work at and after APHA Boston use similar evidenced- based research and leadership arts, paradigms.

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~ Les Fisher