

Abstract for submission to the BC Injury Prevention Conference 2008

Title: Motor vehicle collision data, prevention evidence, and regional programs

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Summary: (240 words)

Within British Columbia, motor vehicle collisions (MVCs) are a serious public health issue. The five regional health authorities within the province are currently profiling the impact of MVCs within each region, as supported by data that outlines hospitalizations and mortality over a ten-year period (1997 to 2006). The BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit has reported on the trends and patterns of MVCs in BC and on the evidence supporting prevention, which has informed the development of regionally based MVC prevention programs. This presentation will highlight the variations in MVCs across the British Columbia and will focus on five areas:

- The 1997 to 2006 MVC hospitalization and mortality data as broken down by region, type of incident, age, gender, and financial cost,
- The contributing factors to MVCs and related injury/mortality in regional health authorities,
- The up-to-date evidence-base for the prevention of MVCs,
- The current status of regional programs and initiatives that focus on MVCs within Northern Health Authority and Vancouver Island Health Authority, and
- The support of the Health Officers Council and the prospective report by the Provincial Health Officer regarding MVCs in British Columbia.

Results from this data assist to identify and describe the contributing risk factors to MVCs and related injury/mortality within regional health authorities. Based on the results of the regional health authority data analysis, evidence based practices will be provided to regional health authorities to prevent MVCs in their respective region.

Author Bios:

Matt Herman:

Matt Herman is the Director of Injury Prevention and Built Environment within the Population and Public Health Division of the BC Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport. Matt has worked in the field of active aging for over 10 years and emigrated from the UK to Canada in 2004. He has a BSc (Hons) Sport Science and a MSc Health Sciences from the University of Edinburgh (with a particular emphasis on health promotion, epidemiology and health economics). For the eight years prior to moving to Canada, he was employed by the NHS (National Health Service) in Scotland and worked as a Senior Health Promotion Specialist, Ageing Well Coordinator and Community Health Officer. These roles involved facilitating partnerships between the health service, seniors, the voluntary sector, local government and private enterprises

Dr. David Bowering:

David Bowering is currently the Chief Medical Health Officer for the Northern Health Authority in British Columbia. He graduated with an MD from the University of British Columbia in 1970 and worked as a family practitioner in Northern British Columbia and the Yukon until 1984. He obtained a Master of Health Science Degree from UBC in 1987 and has worked as a Community Physician since then. Dr. Bowering has a strong interest in Health Promotion and has overseen projects related to teenage smoking and substance abuse, men's health and the prevention of childhood injuries all of which have emphasized the process of engaging with the "target" populations. He is currently interested in seeing a preventive, population health approach applied to the "disease" of motor vehicle crashes and works with a coalition of agencies in Northern British Columbia including the Northern Health Authority to help bring this about.

Dr. Richard Stanwick:

Dr. Richard Stanwick is the Chief Medical Health Officer for the Vancouver Island Health Authority. Dr. Stanwick completed his medical school training at the Winnipeg Children's Hospital and has a Masters Degree in Epidemiology and Health from McGill University. Dr. Stanwick also held a position as full Professor at the University of Manitoba and spent two years with the Province of Manitoba, including one as the Acting Provincial Epidemiologist. He was Medical Officer of Health for the City of Winnipeg from 1990 to 1995. He joined the Capital Regional District in September 1995 and the Capital Health Region, now known as the Vancouver Island Health Authority, in April 1997. Dr. Stanwick has done considerable research in the area of injury control, particularly in the area of burn

prevention and advocacy. He was recognized by the Canadian Public Health Association in July 1997 with an Honorary Life Membership for his contributions to Public Health, and in particular injury prevention.

Dr. Ian Pike:

Dr. Ian Pike is the Director of the BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit and Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at UBC. Previous to this, he has held positions at the Canadian Red Cross, the Healthcare Benefit Trust and the University of Regina. His academic training is in health promotion and injury prevention, with particular emphasis on population health and the workplace. He has some 25 years experience in injury prevention and healthy lifestyle promotion, and has worked in the private, not-for-profit and academic sectors. His current research, which is funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR), is a national project to develop and validate injury indicators for Canadian children and youth.

Dr. Ediriweera Desapriya:

Dr. Ediriweera Desapriya is a Research Associate of Paediatrics-Medicine/BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit at University of British Columbia (UBC). He graduated from the University of Tsukuba, Japan, in 1998. Prior to arriving in Canada for his post-doctoral training he worked as an Assistant Professor at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura-Sri Lanka. In recognition of his contributions to injury prevention and evidence-based practices to the international research community he was nominated for Who's Who in Health Care and Medicine for 2006-2007.