

Injury Surveillance & Prevention

Injury surveillance is the ongoing and systematic collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of health information. The objective to collecting this information is to detect trends in incidence, identify risk factors or causes, develop preventive and control measures, and evaluate the impact of prevention.

Feature: Secwepemc Injury Surveillance & Prevention Program

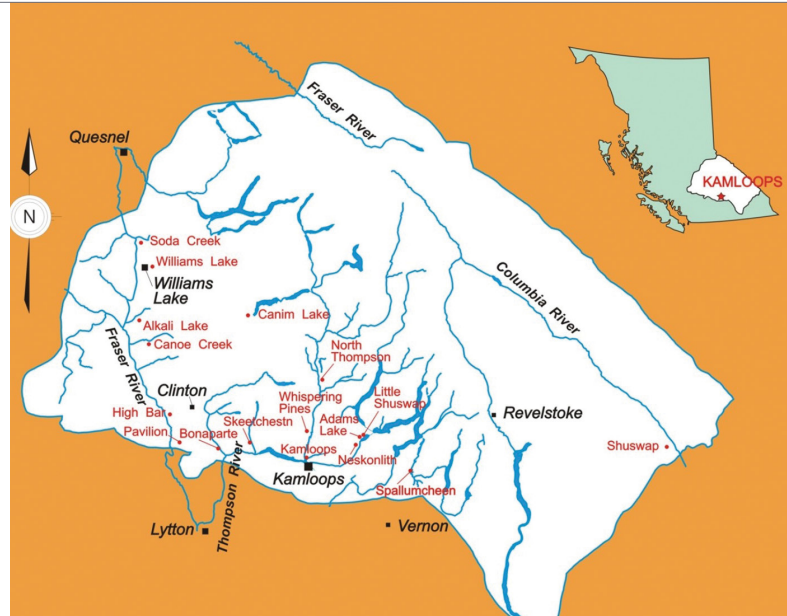
The Program

The Secwepemc Nation Injury Surveillance & Prevention Program is a program in which injury data is collected and analyzed at a community level to determine the trends in injuries happening in each of the participating communities. With the information collected, strategies can be developed in order to prevent many of these injuries from recurring in the future.

The Injury Surveillance Program was started in 2003, when eight Health Directors representing 12 of the Secwepemc communities in the Interior Region, came together to explore the possibility of collecting community specific injury data. They recognized that for prevention strategies to be effective, the strategies needed to be matched to relevant injury problems. The group moved forward with the implementation of the Aboriginal Community Centered Injury Surveillance System (ACCISS). This system collects data on injuries occurring in the community and uses this data to plan prevention activities in the community. This electronic database system was developed to track **who, what, when, where, why,** and **how** injuries happen.

Delivery

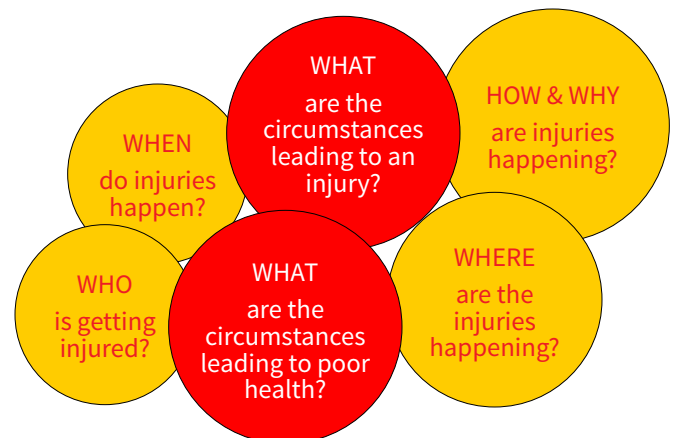
The goal of the program is to gather as much information as possible while keeping the identity of those injured completely anonymous. In order to accomplish this goal, an Injury Surveillance form was developed to record the age, gender, date of injury, time of injury, what happened, etc. and information about the injury itself. Forms are completed by staff and/or other relevant parties such as nurses, RCMP, Home Support, and Community Health Representatives. Completed forms are then given to the Injury Prevention Data Clerks to enter into the ACCISS database.



At the end of each fiscal year, the data collected is summarized and evaluated. The evaluation process allows the clerks and Health Directors in each of the communities determine which areas require prevention initiatives for the next fiscal year. For example, when one community identified that over two thirds of their reported injuries were occurring in and around the home, a Home Safety program was initiated. This included a home safety checklist and support to community members to improve home safety.

Injury prevention relies on knowing...

Promoting health & well-being relies on...



“This project has provided a tool to collect data to inform further program resource and capacity needs at the community level.”

- Secwepemc HUB

Partnerships

Secwepemc Injury Surveillance and Prevention Program is comprised of Esketemc, Three Corners Health Services Society, Q’wemtsin Health Society, Adams Lake Indian Band, Canim Lake Indian Band, Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band, Simpcw First Nation, and Splats’in First Nation. The program’s largest supporting partnership is with First Nations Health Authority. There has also been a partnership developed between the Injury Surveillance Program and Interior Health, where the hospitals associated with the Northern Shuswap communities complete the surveillance forms and the data clerks from each community are responsible for collecting the forms from the hospitals. Without the support of the partners, the program would not be able to develop prevention strategies for their community members.



Evaluation

Since the program’s official start-up in 2005, hundreds of Injury Surveillance forms have been collected from each of our communities. The increase in the numbers of forms that are collected allows the communities to provide more accurate data; this data then leads to more specific prevention initiatives. Some of the initiatives that have been provided include Falls Prevention Workshops, Car Seat Safety, and Bike Rodeos, to name a few.

The Secwepemc Nation Injury Surveillance & Prevention Program continues to actively collect injury surveillance forms from communities and partnering hospitals throughout the year to ensure that the data collected is as accurate as possible.

The use of promotional products will also help to familiarize the program amongst community members.



Photo: Cyclelicious (c) Richard Masoner, CC 2.0

Resources

Information regarding the Secwepemc Injury Surveillance and Prevention Program can be found at any of the following Health Centres:

- » Esketemc, Splats’in, Simpcw
- » Three Corners Health Services Society (Williams Lake, Soda Creek, Canoe Creek)
- » White Feather Family Centre (Canim Lake)
- » Q’wemtsin Health Society (Tkemlups, Skeetchestn, Whispering Pines/Clinton)
- » Sexqeltqin (Adams Lake)
- » Skwlax Wellness Centre (Little Shuswap Lake)

Information can also be found online by visiting:

- » Three Corners Health Services Society [Link →]
- » Q’wemtsin Health Society [Link →]
- » Adams Lake Indian Band [Link →]
- » Aboriginal Community-Centered Injury Surveillance: A Community-Based Participatory Process Evaluation [Link →]



Would you like more information on this case study?
Email: kjasper@threecornershealth.org