



Promoting and Protecting Public Health

1819 Farnam St., Room 401, Omaha, Nebraska, 68183-0401

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Contact: Dr. Adi Pour, Health Director, 444-7471

Kay Farrell, President and CEO, National Safety Council, 896-0454

Phil Rooney, Resource Specialist, 444-6427

Douglas County Health Department, National Safety Council: Injuries are Preventable

Omaha – Injuries impact thousands of Nebraskans every year, according to a new report from the Department of Health and Human Services, but the Douglas County Health Department and the National Safety Council, Greater Omaha Chapter point out that many of them can be prevented.

“From 1999 to 2003, more than 1,000 Douglas County residents died from injury and more than 177,000 residents were treated at a hospital for injuries,” said Douglas County Health Director Dr. Adi Pour.

The figures were included in a Wednesday’s report from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

Kay Farrell, president and CEO of the National Safety Council, Greater Omaha Chapter, called injury prevention a huge challenge.

“This report verifies our mission and will help all of us all across the state in injury prevention to direct programs and other resources in the most effective manner for positive outcomes,” Farrell said. “We will be better able to serve our communities and track injury reduction.”

Taking the proper safety precautions can reduce the likelihood that someone will be hurt, Dr. Pour said. Seat belt use can cut down the number of motor vehicle fatalities, the leading cause of injury death in Nebraska. Many falls, the third leading cause of injury death, also are preventable.

A greater focus on mental health care is needed to reduce the number of suicides in Nebraska. Suicides are the second leading cause of injury death, according to the report.

“Many of these injuries can be prevented, and working with the public to make that happen is one of the duties of the Douglas County Health Department,” Dr. Pour said.

More information on injuries in Nebraska can be found at: www.dhhs.ne.gov. Just look for the injury report.

www.douglascountyhealth.com

**Adi Pour, Ph.D., Director
1819 Farnam St., #401
Omaha, NE 68183**