

When *Safe States* was first presented in the fall of 1997, many state injury prevention programs were moving from a very small level of “catalyst” funding, often involving just a few staff, to larger, more established programs. At that time, the State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association (STIPDA) identified the core components of state injury programs and phases of development to help guide their evolution.

Although some state injury prevention programs are still relatively new and could be considered to be in the earlier stages of development, the landscape has changed considerably in the past five years – for the better. For example, building on the *Safe States* process and other consensus-building activities, STIPDA’s membership has organized a system of peer assessment called State Technical Assessment Teams (STAT). STAT assists states in developing and enhancing injury prevention programs. The process brings a team of injury prevention professionals into a state to assess the status of the state health department’s injury prevention program and to make recommendations for improvement. The combination of support, focus, and growing technical expertise has helped many state injury prevention programs expand their scope and contribute even more to injury prevention efforts across the country.

This version of *Safe States* updates the earlier document. The core components have changed slightly, but the underlying message remains the same: with adequate support from their parent agencies, legislators, and many stakeholders, **state injury prevention programs are poised to dramatically affect the burden of injury across the country.**

The examples and explanations in this document show how this is already underway in some states, and could happen on a greater scale with adequate resources. We hope that *Safe States* stimulates the interest of state-level decision makers, advocates, media representatives, and others in the public health approach to preventing injuries and in the ways that your state’s injury prevention program can contribute to this ambitious but achievable goal.