

# HOW WE DO IT

The concept of injury prevention recognizes that no single approach to safety promotion can be as effective as collaboration among community organizations and community members. The IPC has an infrastructure that is based on partnership. As a result, the IPC facilitates several coalitions aimed at reducing injuries and associated deaths.

## Citizens for Traffic Safety Coalition

Established in 1999, the mission of the Citizens for Traffic Safety of Greater Dallas (CTS) is to reduce death and injuries due to motor vehicle-related crashes in the greater Dallas area. The coalition has sponsored several educational summits and workshops.

For the past three years, the IPC helped move the CTS beyond the perception that prevention is about teaching people to avoid unsafe behaviors to a more multifaceted range of activities including promoting policy and environmental changes. During the Texas 81st Legislative Session (2009), the coalition provided information that led to the passage of SB 61, which amended the existing statute regarding child passenger safety seats. The new law requires that any child younger than 8 years of age be restrained in an approved child passenger safety seat unless the child is at least 4 feet, 9 inches in height. The law went into effect on Sept. 1, 2009 and citations for the offense began on June 1, 2010.

In 2009 at the request of the CTS, the IPC prepared a briefing paper on sobriety checkpoints and disseminated it to legislators. The CTS determined that a priority for 2010 was to continue to work on the sobriety checkpoint initiative in preparation for the 82nd Legislative Session (2011). The IPC implemented a community level initiative to assess community knowledge and attitudes of sobriety checkpoints and utilize the information to inform legislators and grassroots initiatives in the upcoming legislative session.



## Dallas Area Pedestrian Safety Coalition

The Dallas Area Pedestrian Safety Coalition (DAPS) strives to prevent pedestrian injuries and fatalities in Dallas. DAPS brings together representatives from the Dallas Independent School District, city of Dallas, Dallas Area Rapid Transit, local hospitals and community-based organizations to discuss educational, environmental and policy issues surrounding pedestrian safety.

The coalition has hosted multiple speakers including the Texas Department of Transportation, city of Dallas, Dallas Independent School District, Dallas Area Rapid Transit and North Central Texas Council of Governments to discuss how each agency responds to pedestrian safety issues and to improve cross-agency communication.

Additionally, the coalition facilitated the development of a parent safety committee at three Dallas schools and provided training to parent volunteers on the “Walking School Bus” and “Parent Parking Patrol” programs to prevent injuries and fatalities related to traffic and pedestrian crashes. DAPS annually collaborates with Safe Kids Dallas to sponsor the “Walk this Way” events at Dallas elementary schools during International Walk to School Day in October.



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## Family Violence Prevention Council

The Family Violence Prevention Council (FVPC) brings together multiple agencies and institutions to comprehensively address child abuse, intimate partner violence and elder abuse. The FVPC has conducted candidate forums for judges and district attorneys on the issue of family violence, distributed legislative briefing packets to elected officials in the Texas Legislature, co-hosted a symposium on workplace violence and collaborated with the city of Dallas to institute a workplace violence prevention program. The FVPC has also collaborated with the Dallas Independent School District to develop a program addressing Texas legislation requiring schools to provide violence prevention interventions and sponsored a family violence summit on April 18, 2008, to develop a strategic plan to reduce family violence deaths in Dallas.

Additionally, the FVPC was instrumental in establishing the Dallas County Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Fatality Review Team. In June 2010, Dallas County Commissioner Maurine Dickey introduced a resolution, which was passed unanimously by the Dallas County Commissioners Court, to create the IPV Fatality Review Team. The purpose of the review team is to systematically review adjudicated cases of intimate partner violence deaths occurring in Dallas County and collect data to reduce deaths and improve service delivery. The data from the review team will identify the causes and incidence of intimate partner violence fatalities, identify opportunities for prevention and intervention, identify gaps and promote cooperation, communication and coordination among agencies responding to intimate partner violence and provide recommendations for training, coordination of services and/or changes in policies.

The review team is a multi-disciplinary group of stakeholders representing agencies responsible for adult intimate partner violence investigations, death certification and any resulting legal action. Auxiliary members are invited according to community resources and need to ensure a comprehensive case review. All members share their agency's information about each intimate partner death.

## Child Abuse Prevention Coalition

The Child Abuse Prevention Coalition (CAPCO) works to mobilize the community to prevent child abuse through education, increased public awareness, advocacy, program development and collaboration. Since 1983, CAPCO has successfully trained the faith community and professionals throughout Dallas County to recognize and address child abuse. Each year, CAPCO sponsors an event in April for Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month. Since 2009, this event has been held at the old red courthouse in Dallas and averages nearly 300 participants, including representatives from the Dallas County Commissioners Court. In 2010, five television stations aired news coverage of the event.

## Domestic Violence Awareness Coalition

The Domestic Violence Awareness Coalition (DVAC) works with professionals and local businesses to increase awareness and address issues surrounding domestic violence. DVAC has conducted a series of workshops for professionals in the community and sponsors an annual conference. DVAC has also reviewed policies and procedures for domestic violence 911 calls. The coalition assessed the training needs of call dispatchers and made recommendations for improving domestic violence related protocols by elevating the priority response for those 911 calls.

## Dallas Area Falls Prevention Coalition

The Dallas Area Falls Prevention Coalition was organized in 2009. Since its inception, the coalition has produced a fact sheet on ways to prevent senior falls, which has been distributed to Meals on Wheels recipients, promoted Matter of Balance classes around the Dallas area and obtained a mayor's proclamation for Senior Falls Awareness Week in September 2010. Additionally, the coalition participated in a SilverSneakers event at Cowboys Stadium on Sept. 14, 2010. More than 900 older adults participated in the special event. SilverSneakers is part of the nationally-acclaimed Healthways SilverSneakers® Fitness Program, the nation's leading exercise program for older adults.