

## **Overview**

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It is my great pleasure to open the 2nd symposium of the International Collaborative Effort (ICE) on Injury Statistics. For many attending this symposium, this is your first experience with an ICE. The International Collaborative Effort (ICE) on Injury Statistics is one of several international activities sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). The ICE on Injury Statistics also receives generous funding from the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), and for this we are especially grateful to Drs. Dwayne Alexander, Mark Klebanoff, and Mary Overpeck.

The purpose of this ICE is to improve international comparability and quality of injury data. We attempt to accomplish this by promoting dialog throughout the year, by participating in smaller working group meetings, and by sharing data. The ultimate goal is to provide the data needed to better understand the causes of injury and the most effective means of prevention.

To date we have been meeting annually. A time line of our meetings:

May 1994, Maryland, USA - 1st symposium

March 1995, Bethesda Maryland, USA- working group meeting

February 1996, Melbourne, Australia - working group meeting in conjunction with the 3rd World Injury conference

November 1996, Washington, DC, USA- working group meeting

May 1998, Amsterdam, the Netherlands - working group meeting in conjunction with the 4th World Injury conference

June 1999, Washington, DC, USA- 2nd symposium

March 2000, New Delhi, India- working group meeting to be held in conjunction with the 5th World Injury conference

The major Injury ICE general themes have centered on issues related to the coding, classification, and categorization of data. As such, the projects ICE participants have been involved with include:

*Framework for presenting injury mortality data--external cause  
Framework for presenting injury morbidity--diagnosis codes*

Both of these projects are critical because of the need for standardization of data presentation.

*Death registration practices in ICE countries*

*Morbidity registration and classification practices in ICE countries*

The purpose is to try and sort out country variation in death rates that could be due to differential death registration practices

*WET ICE: Comparative drowning statistics*

This project was begun as a study of one cause of death—drowning—as an example of a cause that has more than one set of ICD injury codes (both external and nature of injury) and how using multiple cause coding can increase the numbers of deaths attributed to a particular cause.

*Multiple cause of death analyses*

ICE is exploring the use of multiple cause of death data to better understand injury mortality. Because the underlying cause of death is always the external cause of injury, the multiple cause data allow a closer examination of the nature of injury diagnoses associated with specific injury mechanisms.

*International Classification of External Causes of Injury (ICECI)*

The ICE has worked extensively with the working group that is developing the ICECI and has provided consultation and expertise as necessary.

*International Inventory of Injury-related Data Sources*

*Harmonization of injury classification system*

Both of these efforts were aimed at getting a better understanding of what is available in terms of sources of injury data and how the data elements are classified.

*International comparisons of occupational injuries*

Several ICE participants have been working in this area and are seeking others who are interested. Statistical collections of workplace fatal injury data have a critical role to play in identifying hazards and, consequently, the most appropriate targets for prevention.

ICE has partnered with the WHO Working Group of Injury Surveillance, the Injury Control and Emergency Health Services (ICEHS) section of the American Public Health Association and in particular with the members of the data committee; and with EURORISC. For additional information about the ICE, visit [www.cdc.gov/nchswww/about/otheract/ice/ice.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchswww/about/otheract/ice/ice.htm).

Following is a list of publications that acknowledge the work of the ICE on Injury Statistics:

**From New Zealand:**

1. Langley JD, Smeijers J. Injury mortality among children and teenagers in New Zealand compared with United States of America. *Injury Prevention*, 1997; 3:195-199
2. Smith G, Langley JD. Drowning surveillance: How well do E codes identify submersion fatalities. *Injury Prevention*, 1998; 4:135-139
3. Langley JD, Chalmers DJ. Coding the circumstances of injury: ICD-10 a step forward or backwards? *Injury Prevention* (in press)

**From Scotland:**

1. Stone DH, Morrison A and Smith GS. Emergency department injury surveillance systems: the best source of limited resources? *Injury Prevention*, 1999; 5:166-167.
2. Morrison A, Stone D. and the EURORISC Working Group. Unintentional childhood injury mortality in Europe 1984-93: a report from the EURORISC Working Group. *Injury Prevention*, 1999; 5:166-167.

**From the United States:**

1. National Center for Health Statistics. Proceedings of the International Collaborative Effort (ICE) on Injury Statistics Volume I, DHHS Pub No. (PHS) 95-1252 March 1995 (Edited by LA Fingerhut)
2. Fingerhut LA, Annest JL, Baker, SP, Kochanek KD and McLoughlin E. Injury mortality among children and teenagers in the United States, 1993. Injury Prevention 2:93-94. 1996.
3. National Center for Health Statistics. Proceedings of the International Collaborative Effort (ICE) on Injury Statistics Volume II, DHHS Pub No. (PHS) 96-1252 September 1996 (Edited by LA Fingerhut)
4. Fingerhut LA and Warner M. Injury Chartbook. Health, United States, 1996-97. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1997
5. MMWR. Recommendations and Reports. Recommended Framework for Injury Mortality Data McLoughlin E, Annest JL, Fingerhut LA, Rosenberg H, Kochanek K, Pickett D and Berenholz G. Vol 46, no RR-14, August 29, 1997.
6. Fingerhut LA, Cox CS, Warner M, et al. International comparative analysis of injury mortality: Findings from the ICE on Injury Statistics. Advance data from vital and health statistics; no. 303. Hyattsville, Maryland: NCHS. 1998.