Injuries are one of the state’s leading causes of death and may result in trauma, loss of independence, and life-long disabilities. The injury prevention standards emphasize the importance of establishing both a comprehensive injury prevention data surveillance system and a coordinated statewide injury prevention plan.

The Prevent Injuries standards were designed to:
- Emphasize the need for a comprehensive statewide injury data surveillance system that helps determine the need for targeted prevention activities.
- Coordinate statewide injury prevention efforts.
- Provide efficient use of resources for injury prevention.

What are the benefits and outcomes for Iowans?
- A comprehensive statewide injury data surveillance system. Local public health partners would report injury prevention data to the state system. The state system would use the data to identify trends in injuries, develop reports for all public health partners, and develop initiatives to address injury trends.
- A coordinated approach to injury prevention at all levels.
- Efficient use of resources for injury prevention programs.
- Improved access to promising and best practice injury prevention interventions.
- A reduction of intentional and unintentional injuries.

How will the state public health system change?
- The state public health department will improve both their collection and use of available injury data to conduct annual surveillance. The data will improve planning efforts and coordinate state-wide programs to address injury trends.
- Along with data surveillance, the state public health department will work with existing coalitions or develop new ones whose function would be to promote injury prevention activities. To support these coalitions, the state public health department will provide leadership in the area of promising and best practices for intentional and unintentional injury programs.

For more information about the Prevent Injuries standards, contact committee co-chairs:
Craig Keough, Iowa Department of Public Health  
563-589-8133  
ckeough@idph.state.ia.us