

Injuries are a serious problem for the health of the population. In Sweden an average of 12 people die everyday as a result of their injuries. Children that fall off climbing-frames and old people falling over in the bathroom are just a couple of examples of how accidents can result in injury. Other causes of injury are traffic accidents and intentional incidents like suicide and assault.

The aim of the Swedish Safety Promotion Programme is to prevent injury. The Swedish Rescue Services Agency is host for the programme, which is based on cooperation between municipalities, county councils, national authorities, researchers, and voluntary organisations.

A programme for safety promotion and injury prevention.

The Swedish Safety Promotion Programme has as its starting point local needs and problems amongst social groups that are particularly susceptible to injury (at risk groups). Methods, tools and working methods will be developed in conjunction with those in need so that injuries can be prevented.

THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES

Every person regardless of social group, gender, ethnicity, and age should have the same rights, obligations, and opportunities. Certain social groups are more susceptible to injury than others, for example, children and the elderly; and so society has a specific responsibility towards them.

LOTS OF PEOPLE ARE EXPOSED TO INJURY

Approximately 4,200 people die as a result of their injuries in Sweden each year. Approximately 140,000 people receive care as in-patients, due to their injuries, each year. And approximately 900,000 people visit outpatients departments. Injuries are the most common cause of death for adults under 45 and children. In order to make a collective assessment of the problem of injuries and their causes a new national centre, called the NCO (Swedish National Incident & Accident Analysis Centre) has been opened in Karlskoga.

COSTS

Injuries entail huge costs for society, approximately 63 billion SEK per year. The largest part of that is incurred by businesses in the form of loss of earnings and increased personnel costs. The costs incurred by the municipalities

are for social services transport, home help services, and health care services. The costs incurred by the county councils for the medical care of injured people are also extensive. But not least is the great human suffering experienced by those affected.

AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM

Sweden has been successful in relation to injury prevention work. The Swedish Rescue Services Agency is now actively involved in creating a contact network with branches at all levels, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

WORKING TOGETHER

An important part of our strategy is working together with stakeholders that can contribute to reducing the injury risks that surround us. A reduction of the risks involved is a process that needs to be performed in different ways depending on the types of risk and their seriousness.

Information, training, supervision, and improvements to the physical environment are just some of the examples of measures that should preferably be taken jointly with all concerned stakeholders.

A SAFE COMMUNITY

In 1989 a Swedish initiative called, "A Safe Community" was launched. The idea was to create a model for injury prevention work within local communities. This model is an important part of the WHO's global injury prevention programme. In Sweden, so far, 14 municipalities have been granted the status of "A Safe Community".



A different language. Isolation. Your effort can make a difference.



A playground. A rusty nail. You can prevent the injury.



A slippery floor. A broken bone. This kind of accident can be prevented.

If you would like to know more about the Swedish Safety Promotion Programme feel free to contact us on +46 54 13 50 00 (switchboard). You can find further details about the programme at www.srv.se



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The Swedish Safety Promotion Programme shall

- Contribute to an increase in personal safety and security, and to a reduction of injury risks.
- Focus efforts on specific "at risk groups" and "at risk environments".
- Contribute to the international development of cooperation and contact networks.
- Develop and spread knowledge and information about the problem and the causes of injuries.
- At a local level, further develop and spread the WHO's concept of "A Safe Community".
- Initiate development work within particular areas, for example, reducing the risks that cause people to slip or fall over, and to reduce injuries to children and the elderly.
- Contribute to training within the field of injury prevention..



SWEDISH SAFETY PROMOTION PROGRAMME