

**Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant
United States Disease Prevention Program
Flexible Funding for Idaho's Public Health Programs**

The Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant funds health problems specific to Idaho that receive little or no other support. Our State Advisory Committee prioritized our health needs and has directed funds to combat unintentional injury and sexual violence. Program highlights include:



Motor Vehicle Restraints – Unintentional Injury Prevention

PHHS Block Grant funds are used to strengthen Idaho's safety restraint law, increase public awareness of the law and its public health benefits, and to provide child safety seats and training in their use to low-income caregivers. Observed seat belt use has risen from 60% to 72%, a 12% increase, in the period from 2001 to 2003. Further, Idaho safety survey respondents report a rate of correct safety seat use which is more than twice the national average (64% vs. 31%).



Intentional Injury Prevention – Sexual Violence Prevention Program

Nationally, one in four college women are raped, which is why campus sexual violence prevention programs are a priority in Idaho.

Thousands of young adults across the state have participated in 100+ training and educational workshops aimed at students ranging from fraternity and sorority members to first-year medical students. Working with Idaho's three largest universities, we've funded mentoring programs, outreach efforts and five ongoing campaigns (e.g., Sexual Assault Violence Month) to instill prevention messages.



Unintentional Injury Prevention - Senior Falls

Falls are the leading cause of death for Idahoans 65 years and older, nearly double the national average. And half of all ambulance calls in our state are from this same population. That's why we used our funds to collaborate with government agencies and universities on the "Fit & Fall Proof Program," which teaches strength training and balance techniques to seniors across the state. This program, launched at the end of 2004, now has 45 fall prevention exercise trainers as well as two master trainers who are creating a cadre of volunteers to teach at senior and community centers in every health district.



Karl Kurtz, Director, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare:

"Unintentional injuries and sexual violence are important issues that affect the health and safety of Idahoans. The Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant is a vital source of funding that allows us to address these unique health needs so we can develop interventions and solutions."

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

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