



# Issue 12

January / February 2012



# Injury Prevention News

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## → FEATURE STORIES

### **UK: Burden of injury 2.6 times higher than previously thought**

Researchers have found the burden of injury to be 2.6 times higher in the UK than previously thought.

The burden of injury – quantifying the impact injury has on an individual who is injured and on society - has been calculated as part of new research led by Professor Ronan Lyons, Swansea University.

The research entitled 'Measuring the Population Burden of Injuries - Implications for Global and National Estimates: A Multi-centre Prospective UK Longitudinal Study' analyses a variety of types of accident data.

Using qualitative data from patients as well as morbidity data on patients treated in emergency departments, the research uses the disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) formula that calculates years lost or reduced due to disability caused by injury.

DALYs combine the years of life lost (YLLs) and the years lived with disability (YLDs) to produce one DALY that equates to one healthy life lost.

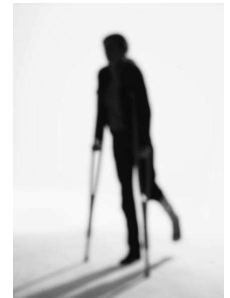
The study found DALYs to be 2.6 times greater than previously thought, and even allowing for a more conservative estimate, 1.6 times greater than earlier estimates.

The study also found that the majority of injuries were unintentional, with the home being the most frequent location for injury.

**Read report:**

<http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pmed.1001140>

**SOURCE:** PloS Medicine website



### **ENGLAND: Confirmed public health indicators for injury prevention**

IOBI welcomes the inclusion of several injury prevention indicators in the new Public Health Outcome Framework.

The Public Health Outcome Framework, published in January 2012, sets out the desired outcomes for public health across England and how these will be measured.

Indicators directly related to injury prevention include:

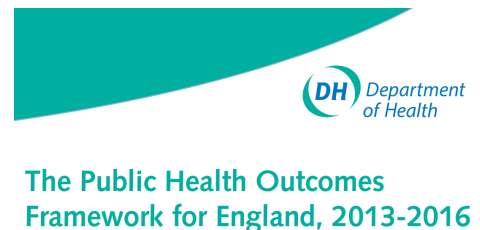
- Killed or seriously injured casualties on England's roads
- Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in under 18s.
- Hospital admissions as a result of self-harm
- Falls and injuries in the over 65s
- Suicide
- Hip fractures in over 65s

A range of additional indicators are indirectly related to accident prevention, including: mortality from cause considered preventable, excess winter deaths, utilisation of green space for exercise/health reasons and alcohol related admissions to hospital.

The challenge now, is to ensure local authorities and healthcare commissioning groups give these indicators the attention they warrant.

**Further information:** [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_132358](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_132358)

**SOURCE:** Department for Health



### **UK: RoSPA BNFL Safety Scholarship Round 2012**

The fourth round of the annual RoSPA BNFL Scholarship scheme was launched on 9th December 2011.

The aim of this scheme, which is competitive and was established with £500,000 of legacy funding following the winding up of BNFL, is to provide support for safety-related research that will produce 'defined, practical and influential outcomes to help save lives and prevent injuries in the UK and around the world'.

Previously funded projects have considered: the scale and impact of child injuries in Nepal; the threat posed by cold water immersion; the effectiveness of a learner-driver coaching programme; the impact of child safety interventions; the perception of approaching vehicles by older motorists; evaluation of the Safe at Home programme; a pilot project on collection of injury data at A&E departments; and barriers to falls prevention projects.

The closing date for applications is **2nd April 2012**.

**Further information:** <http://www.rospa.com/occupationsafety/conferenceseventsawards/bnfl-rospa-scholarship.aspx>

**SOURCE:** RoSPA



## → FEATURE STORIES

### **WORLD: World Safety Conference 2012 - call for abstracts**

Participants wishing to present at the 11th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, are now invited to submit abstracts. This conference will bring together the world's leading injury prevention and safety researchers, practitioners, policy makers and advocates to debate discuss and share information and expertise.

**Submit an abstract:** [http://www.conference.co.nz/worldsafety2012/call\\_for\\_abstracts](http://www.conference.co.nz/worldsafety2012/call_for_abstracts) (Closing date 28th March 2012)

**SOURCE:** Safety 2012 World Conference website

### **UK: Child Safety Week 2012 - 18th June to 24th June 2012**

Child Safety Week is the Child Accident Prevention Trust's annual flagship community education campaign.

It aims to raise awareness of the number of accidents that seriously injure or kill children every year and the steps we can take to help prevent them.

Child Safety Week 2012 takes place from Monday 18 June to Sunday 24 June 2012 - so pop the date in your diary now.

**Further Information:** <http://www.childsafetyweek.org.uk/child-safety-week/>

**SOURCE:** Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) website



### **UK: Experiencing risk is crucial if young people are to learn about safety and being active**

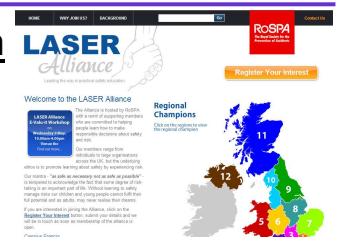
Helping children and young people develop skills to make responsible decisions about safety and risk is the aim of a new LASER Alliance (<http://www.lasersafety.org.uk/index.htm>).

The LASER Alliance, which currently has 215 registered members (individuals and organisations), promotes "learning about safety by experiencing risk". It believes risk taking is an important part of life and that, by learning to manage risks through high quality practical safety education, children and young people will be able to contribute to reducing injuries and have the confidence to lead active lives.

The alliance is hosted by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), which has a guiding principle that life should be "as safe as necessary, not as safe as possible".

**Further information:** <http://www.lasersafety.org.uk/index.htm>

**SOURCE:** LASER Alliance website



### **UK: Huge roads policing cuts put public at risk, warns charity**

The numbers of traffic police carrying out life-saving enforcement & catching drunk and dangerous drivers have been slashed by 11.6% in five years, reveals road safety charity Brake. The cuts are six times greater than to overall police numbers (down by 1.8% since 2007) according to data from 43 UK forces.

Cuts to roads policing have been dramatic and widespread throughout the past decade. In 1999 there were 7,525 dedicated traffic police in England and Wales, falling to 6,511 in 2005. Brake's research reveals this trend has continued across the UK. Cuts are especially severe in Wales, where traffic police numbers have fallen by a staggering 37% since 2007. View results by police force area:

[http://www.brake.org.uk/assets/docs/Whatshappening/Influencegovernment/Research-traffic\\_policing-12.pdf](http://www.brake.org.uk/assets/docs/Whatshappening/Influencegovernment/Research-traffic_policing-12.pdf)

Brake is calling for government action to put a stop to these cuts, which it warns will lead to more drivers thinking they can get away with life-threatening illegal behaviour, like driving drunk, drugged, on a mobile phone or driving an unroadworthy vehicle.

**Further information:** <http://www.brake.org.uk/latest-news/270112.htm>

**SOURCE:** Brake website



### **EUROPE: Proposal for a new Health for Growth Programme (2014-2020)**

On 9 November 2011, the European Commission adopted a legislative proposal for the 3rd multi-annual programme: Health for Growth (2014-2020). The new programme will help EU countries respond to economic and demographic challenges facing their health systems and enable citizens to stay healthy for longer.

**Further information:** [http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/index_en.htm)

**SOURCE:** European Commission website.

## → FEATURE STORIES

### **EUROPE: Safety in Basketball - launch of Sports Task Force report**

A three-years study by the EuroSafe -Safety in Sports Task Force confirms that it is possible to anchor injury prevention more strongly into the education and training of coaches as well as players and thus to increase the health benefits of playing basketball by decreasing injury risks.

Coaches play a decisive role in translating the prevention evidence into practice and are the most important mediators for integrating safety aspects within current training and practices. The report has been launched in collaboration with FIBA-Europe, the European basketball federation.



#### **Further information:**

<http://www.eurosafe.eu.com/csi/eurosafe2006.nsf/wwwVwContent/57D974A4524FB219C125798E002FC2F7?opendocument&context=1DCF6C777136A133C1257177003C86A1>

**SOURCE:** Eurosafe website

### **EUROPE: Safer child seats**

Younger children will be better protected when travelling by car following the adoption of a new regulation on child-restraint systems (CRS) by the UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) Working Party on Secondary Safety RSP).

The new regulation (known as the "I-size regulation") is the response of experts in UNECE to criticisms of the existing regulation for child car-seats from both Member States and consumers.

**Further information:** <http://www.anec.eu/attachments/ANEC-PR-2011-PRL-026.pdf>

**SOURCE:** ANEC



### **SCOTLAND: National debate on young drivers**

Young Drivers are disproportionately represented in road accidents. In Scotland they are involved in around 25% of incidents. The Scottish Government document Road Safety Framework to 2020 has highlighted young drivers as a priority group. As a commitment to this priority a National Debate on Young Drivers was conducted and the report published in December 2010.

**View Report:** <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/strategy-and-research/publications-and-consultations/j13564-00.htm>

**SOURCE:** Transport Scotland

### **SCOTLAND: Can the home ever be safe?**

Fife Council has welcomed its first tenants into its first set of newly built Council homes in over two decades. This development in Rosyth not only marks the first of five new build council house developments currently underway in Fife, it also means that Fife is the first Council in Scotland to incorporate all the recommended safety features from RoSPA's policy document Can the Home ever be Safe? These homes now incorporate numerous safety features which include domestic sprinkler systems, lockable cupboards and hard wired carbon monoxide detectors.

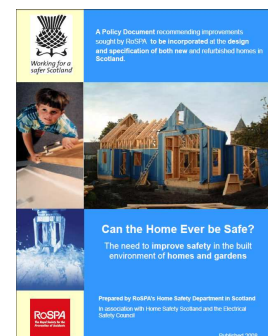
#### **Further information:**

<http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/news/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.display&objectid=CB16575B-910C-C791-5C7D3199D255F7F0>

#### **Can the Home Ever be Safe policy document:**

<http://www.rospa.com/homesafety/Info/Scotland/can-the-home-ever-be-safe-scotland.pdf>

**SOURCE:** Fife Council website **FURTHER COMMENT:** RoSPA Homeword newsletter



### **SCOTLAND: Free childcare for vulnerable children**

It has been announced that early learning and childcare opportunities for vulnerable two year olds will be expanded following an investment of £1.5 million a year over the next three years from the Scottish Government. This will help to ensure that free early learning and childcare provision will be available for looked after two year olds. The funding will be made available to local authorities from April 2012.

**Further information:** <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2011/12/21140320>

**SOURCE:** The Scottish Government website **FURTHER COMMENT:** RoSPA Homeword newsletter

## ➔ TOOLS AND GUIDES

### UK: RoSPA Infocentre

RoSPA's Infocentre, based at the Society's headquarters in Birmingham, houses a unique collection of safety-related documents and provides an extensive enquiry service on all aspects of safety and health. For RoSPA Members the service is free, included as part of the annual subscription.

Further information: [http://www.rospa.com/resources/Info/infocentre\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.rospa.com/resources/Info/infocentre_brochure.pdf)

SOURCE: RoSPA



### SCOTLAND: ScORSA Driving Risks @ Work Toolkit

The Scottish Occupational Road Safety Alliance (ScORSA) launched its ScORSA Driving Risks @ Work Toolkit on 11th May 2011 to coincide with the United Nations launch of the Decade of Action for Road Safety. The ScORSA DR@W Toolkit is free to Small and Medium sized businesses in Scotland and has been promoted through a series of seminars in Fife, Glasgow, Hamilton and Aberdeen.

Statistics reveal that people who drive in the course of their work are involved in between a quarter to a third of all incidents on Scotland's roads. <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg382.pdf>

ScORSA Toolkit information: <http://www.scorsa.org.uk/>

ScORSA DR@W Seminar presentations: <http://www.rospa.com/about/aroundtheuk/scotland/presentations.aspx>

Future seminars are scheduled to take place in Wick, Inverness and Shetland: <http://www.scottishroadsafety.com/>

SOURCE: ScORSA & RoSPA

### IRELAND: New booklet on motorway driving in the Republic of Ireland

Ireland's motorway network has expanded in recent years and there has been an increase in motorway traffic incidents. The Road Safety Authority (RSA) has published a new information booklet to help drivers to safely use motorways. The booklet is available at the RSA website.

Link to booklet: [http://www.rsa.ie/Documents/Campaigns/Drunk%20With%20Tiredness/rsa006a\\_MotorwayBooklet\\_13\\_a\\_web.pdf](http://www.rsa.ie/Documents/Campaigns/Drunk%20With%20Tiredness/rsa006a_MotorwayBooklet_13_a_web.pdf)

### IRELAND: Inventory of youth services in the Republic of Ireland

The National Suicide Research Foundation has published an inventory of services for young people. The inventory was developed in response to requests from professionals, volunteers and young people who expressed a need for an inventory of services that young people can turn to for general and mental health issues. The inventory is available at the NSRF's website.

Link to inventory: [http://www.nsrif.ie/reports/Leaflets/Youth\\_ServiceInventory.pdf](http://www.nsrif.ie/reports/Leaflets/Youth_ServiceInventory.pdf)

SOURCE: NSRF



### UK: 'Home Electrical Safety Check' app from Electrical Safety Council

The new ESC app allows anyone – whether they live in the home or are looking to move into it – to do a quick, visual check, to ensure its electrically safe. Designed to be as easy-to-use as possible, the app highlights potential dangers in each room and explains how to resolve simple, non-technical problems. Where more serious issues are flagged, people are advised to use a registered electrician. The app is available for iPhone and Android phones - just go to the App Store or Android Market, search for 'Home Electrical Safety Check' then follow the instructions to download.

SOURCE: Electrical Safety Council FURTHER COMMENT: Homeword newsletter



## ➔ INJURY PREVENTION CAMPAIGNS

### UK: Free gas safety checks

The Gas Safe Register is encouraging people, and in particular the elderly, to take advantage of free gas safety checks if they are eligible to help ensure they have well maintained and safe gas appliances. It has been reported that "£134 million worth of potentially life-saving gas safety checks offered free by the energy suppliers go unclaimed every year, as a staggering number of people are killed by the effects of cold every winter, according to research carried out for Gas Safe Register, which found that 88% of elderly homeowners have never claimed a free gas safety check".

Further information: [http://www.gassaferegister.co.uk/news/gas\\_safe\\_register\\_news/elderly\\_ignore\\_free\\_checks.aspx](http://www.gassaferegister.co.uk/news/gas_safe_register_news/elderly_ignore_free_checks.aspx)

SOURCE: Gas Safe Register website FURTHER COMMENT: RoSPA Homeword Newsletter

## ➔ INJURY PREVENTION CAMPAIGNS

### **SCOTLAND: Making it Safe campaign expands in Scotland**

RoSPA have announced that five new regions in Scotland will be taking part in the 'Make it Safe' campaign. The 'Make it Safe' campaign aims to provide information about the dangers of looped blind cords to families, empowering them to make informed decisions about buying blinds with looped cords. It also aims to help families change their current practices with existing blinds with looped cords. 12,000 cleats and Make it Safe leaflets will be handed out across the City of Edinburgh, West Lothian, West Dunbartonshire, East Lothian and the Western Isles.



**Further information:** <http://www.rospa.com/news/releases/detail/default.aspx?id=1071>

**SOURCE:** RoSPA website

### **Making it Safe leaflets translated into Gaelic and Polish**

Make it Safe leaflets have recently been translated into Scottish Gaelic and Polish and are available in hard copy or as a PDF file.

**Download translated leaflets:** <http://www.rospa.com/homesafety/aroundtheuk/scotland/blind-cords-translation.aspx>

**SOURCE:** RoSPA website

### **UK: It's Time to Test: Change your clock, test your smoke alarm**

A new hard-hitting Fire Kills campaign, urges people to make a potentially life-saving move when they change their clocks on 25th March 2012, by taking a moment to test their smoke alarm too.

The twice-yearly clock change is a task that everybody takes for granted. While timekeeping is a vital part of our lives and we all keep our clocks working to stay on track, it's shocking to find that many people forget to ensure the safety of themselves and their loved ones by keeping their smoke alarm in the same working order.



**To watch the short fire safety video, part of the Government's Fire Kills campaign, please click on the following link:**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3aw1JmjlA-I&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3aw1JmjlA-I&feature=player_embedded)

**SOURCE:** Communities and Local Government website

### **WALES: Multi Media Anti Drink Drive Competition 2011**

To promote the anti drinking and driving message, schools and youth organisations were invited to devise, perform and record a live action multimedia presentation to warn people of the dangers and/or consequences of drinking and driving, in the fourth annual competition.

Winners of the Regional Competition received £500 for the school/organisation they represented and individual team prizes, presented by Chief Constable Carmel Napier of Gwent Police, at an event held to launch the Christmas Anti Drink Drive Campaign on 1st December 2011.

**View winning entries:** <http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBC4636BA77A5DBDA>

**SOURCE:** Road Safety Wales website



## ➔ NEW WEBSITES

### **UK: New web-Based software partnership for RoSPA and Airsweb**

Promoting safety awareness and transparency in organisations is becoming easier thanks to a new partnership between the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and specialist quality, health, safety and environment (QHSE) software provider Airsweb.

The exclusive partnership will give RoSPA clients access to health and safety management software, which enables them to access real-time safety data and create reports, graphs and performance trend analyses that can support them in decision-making.

**Further information:** <http://www.rospa.com/news/releases/detail/default.aspx?id=1070>

**SOURCE:** RoSPA website

## NEW WEBSITES

### SCOTLAND: ScotPHO re-launches website

The Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO) has re-launched its website - <http://www.scotpho.org.uk/>.

The new website enables information to be found more quickly and easily, and provides the latest developments in public health intelligence in Scotland.

Key resources on the ScotPHO website include:

- Health and Wellbeing Profiles <http://www.scotpho.org.uk/comparative-health/profiles/2010-chpprofiles> for community health partnerships (CHPs) in Scotland.
- The Scotland and European Health for All database <http://www.scotpho.org.uk/comparative-health/scotland-and-european-hfa-database>
- Dedicated sections for a wide range of topics relating to the health of the Scottish population. Each individual section includes summary data and statistics, background information, interpretation, policy notes, commentaries on data sources as well as references and links to further information for the topic in question.

If you have any feedback or suggestions about the new website please e-mail [scotpho@nhs.net](mailto:scotpho@nhs.net)

Website link: <http://www.scotpho.org.uk/>.

SOURCE: ScotPHO website FURTHER COMMENT: RoSPA Homeword newsletter



## STRATEGIES AND CONSULTATIONS

### UK: Protecting an ageing population from risk of fire in the home

The Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) have launched a new National Older Persons Strategy which aims to provide guidance and support to fire and rescue services and their partners to enable them to rise to the challenge of keeping older and more vulnerable members of the community safer from the risk of injury and death as a result of fire in the home.



Further information and download report: <http://www.fire-magazine.com/Content/Doc.aspx?id=2414>

SOURCE: Fire Magazine FURTHER COMMENT: RoSPA Homeword newsletter

## INJURY STATISTICS AND DATA

### ENGLAND: New national Injury Profiles tool for England

The South West Public Health Observatory has developed a new national Injury Profiles tool to be released at the end of March 2012. The Profiles will bring together over 40 injury indicators (both accidental and intentional injury) for each Local Authority in England in an easy-to-use online tool.

The aim is: to raise awareness of injuries as a public health issue; to support injury prevention initiatives through identifying high levels or worrying patterns of injury; to spark debate about data use and data quality through actively promoting the tool and engaging stakeholders in contributing to its further development

There are indicators relating to: Deaths, Hospitals admissions and A&E attendances, Children and Older people, Road traffic collisions, Falls, Fractures, Burns and fire related injuries, Poisoning, Near-drowning, Intentional injuries, Alcohol use, Deprivation, Quality of health services data

The tool will be released end March 2012 at: <http://www.injuryprofiles.org.uk/>

SOURCE: South West Public Health Observatory



### SCOTLAND: New statistics on unintentional injuries in Scotland

The Information Services Division (ISD), Scotland's national organisation for health information, statistics and IT services, has released its latest statistics on unintentional injuries, for the year 2010/2011.

Further information & Report:

<http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Emergency-Care/Publications/index.asp#661>

SOURCE: Information Services Division (ISD)



## INJURY STATISTICS AND DATA

### **ENGLAND: Project to inform injury data collection in A&E departments in England**

The South West Public Health Observatory has been working on a project to define a standard dataset for enhanced injury-related collection in emergency medicine in England, and is currently evaluating the viability of this through a pilot collection.

The dataset was defined and refined drawing on: an earlier report commissioned by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents which outlined the requirements of enhanced data collection; a collection already underway in Wales; EU requirements; a steering group comprising experts in the field of injury prevention and members of the College of Emergency Medicine.

The injury dataset has now been incorporated in the College of Emergency Medicine's proposed 'Emergency Care Minimum Dataset' covering all attendances. Coded items in the 'Patient Injury' module will provide information on the cause and context of injuries and a separate 'Clinical Narrative' text field will be used to provide further details.

Enhanced injury data collection is now established at two pilot sites in London (paediatrics) and Oxford (all age groups), and SWPHO and the College are seeking further participant sites. Please see the following links for further details:

**Pilot project poster:** <http://www.swpho.nhs.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=93361>

**College of Emergency Medicine Emergency Care Minimum Dataset:** <http://secure.collemergencymed.ac.uk/code/document.asp?ID=5936>

**SOURCE:** South West Public Health Observatory

### **SCOTLAND: Improving injury data collection in A&E departments across Scotland**

Information Services Division (ISD) has been working with NHS boards to improve injuries data collection in Accident and Emergency Departments across Scotland including Intent of Injury, Location of Accident, Cause and Nature of Injury.

ISD has been receiving this information now for several months from four NHS Boards and has been working with all the remaining NHS Boards to bring information in. It is expected that information will be received from six other NHS Boards before the end of the project (March 2012). However, ongoing IT issues may delay this estimate.

Analysis of this data is currently provided under management information i.e. not yet available in the public domain. This is to allow the data quality to be assessed and if necessary improved to avoid presenting misleading information.

Analysis of the data so far received has been positive and ISD hopes it will be of use in future planning for the health service and within the sphere of public health.

**For any queries regarding this work please contact:** [nss.isdunscheduledcare@nhs.net](mailto:nss.isdunscheduledcare@nhs.net).

**SOURCE:** ISD **FURTHER COMMENT:** RoSPA Homeword Newsletter



### **WALES: Road Casualties: Drinking and Driving, 2010**

The latest National Statistics on 2010 Road Casualties Wales: Drinking and Driving produced by the Welsh Government were released on 1 December 2011 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

Although data uncertainties mean that exact estimates are not possible, the highest estimates (made for the Department of Transport, DfT) suggest that one or more drivers over the drink-drive limit were involved in as many as:

- Around 1 in 4 fatal accidents;
- Around 1 in 13 serious accidents; and
- Around 1 in 17 slight accidents in Wales.

**Further information & to download report:** <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/transport2011/111201/?lang=en>

**SOURCE:** Department for Transport



### **GREAT BRITAIN: Reported road casualties Great Britain: provisional estimates Q3 2011**

Reported Road Casualties in Great Britain: Quarterly Provisional Estimates is a series providing estimates of personal injury road accidents and their casualties. These estimates are published to allow emerging trends to be monitored between the publications of annual figures.

The latest report shows that there were 204,350 total casualties (slight injuries, serious injuries and fatalities) in the year ending September 2011, 5 per cent less than the year ending September 2010. Total reported child casualties (ages 0-15) fell by less than 0.5 per cent to 19,890 with those killed or seriously injured down 7 per cent (to 2,400), compared with the year ending September 2010.

**Further information & to download publication:**

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/releases/road-accidents-and-safety-quarterly-estimates-q3-2011/>

**SOURCE:** Department for Transport



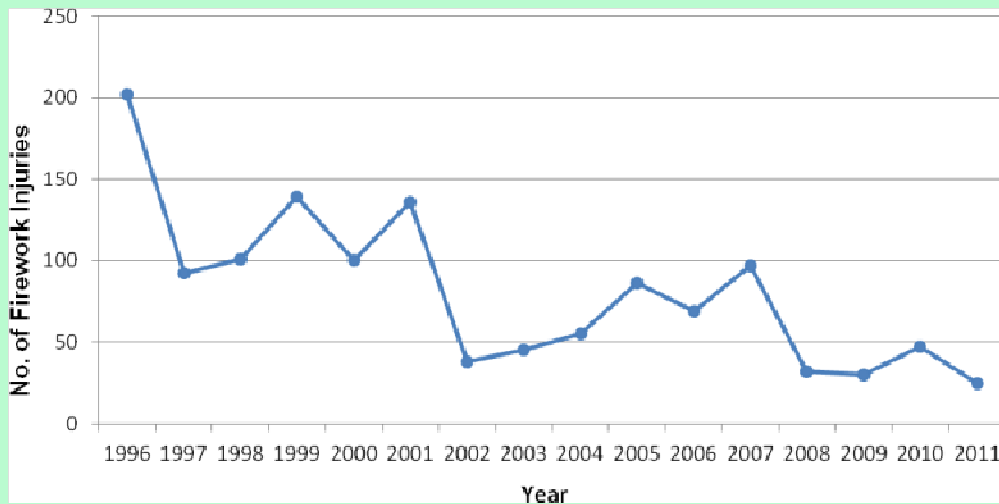
## INJURY STATISTICS AND DATA

### NORTHERN IRELAND: Reduction in firework related injuries

Halloween 2011 saw the lowest number of people attending emergency care department as result of a firework related injury since records began in 1996. Between 1996 and 2011, the number of persons injured from fireworks and presenting at emergency care departments decreased significantly from 202 to 25. The introduction of legislation to regulate use of fireworks saw a sharp decline in the number of people reporting a fireworks injury in 2002 (38 people) but the number had increases to 97 people by 2007. Since then the number has decreased by almost three quarters to 25 people.

For more information see: [http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/fireworks\\_injuries\\_statistics\\_2011.pdf](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/fireworks_injuries_statistics_2011.pdf)

Figure 1: Number of Persons Injured by Fireworks during the Halloween Period, Northern Ireland (1996 – 2011)



SOURCE: Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety

FURTHER COMMENT: Steve Barron, Institute of Public Health in Ireland

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

### ENGLAND: NHS Bristol - Non-Collision Cycling Survey

NHS Bristol, Cycling City and the West of England Road Safety Partnership have been working together to conduct and publicise the results of a survey investigating the causes and circumstances of non-collision incidents (NCI). The survey found slipping on ice to be the main cause of NCIs, accounting for 1 in 4 NCIs. As a result, NHS Bristol has subsequently employed Lifecycle to work with employers to help them raise awareness of the hazards cyclists face when travelling to work in freezing conditions.

Further information:

<http://www.avon.nhs.uk/phnet/Avonsafe/Cycling%20Injuries/Cycling%20Injuries.htm>

Poster presented at the South West Public Health Scientific Conference on 1st February 2012:

[http://www.injuryobservatory.net/documents/Rob\\_Benington\\_cycling.pdf](http://www.injuryobservatory.net/documents/Rob_Benington_cycling.pdf)

SOURCE: Rob Benington, NHS Bristol [Rob.Benington@bristol.nhs.uk](mailto:Rob.Benington@bristol.nhs.uk)

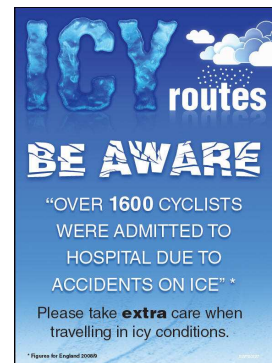
### ENGLAND: NHS Bristol - Predicting Future Needs of Falls Services

NHS Bristol have also been involved in a falls related project 'Falls—into the future'. This project aims to model trends in fall related emergency admissions of older people, to help predict future needs of falls services. As well as highlighting the need for specialised services to identify and assist people at risk of falling, this analysis also helped make a business case for a Fracture Liaison Service and the development of the Falls/Primary Prevention Services.

Further information (poster presented at the South West Public Health Scientific Conference on 1st February 2012):

[http://www.injuryobservatory.net/documents/Rob\\_Benington\\_falls.pdf](http://www.injuryobservatory.net/documents/Rob_Benington_falls.pdf)

SOURCE: Rob Benington, NHS Bristol [Rob.Benington@bristol.nhs.uk](mailto:Rob.Benington@bristol.nhs.uk)





## RESEARCH NEWS

This section highlights important new research findings from the scientific literature.

Each week CAPIC staff screen research abstracts produced by SafetyLit (<http://www.safetylit.org/>) the injury prevention literature update produced by San Diego State University in collaboration with the World Health Organization. The amount of literature is large and growing with about 120 publications each week and it is hard for anybody to keep up with this information. Many people prefer to read summary documents which bring together the evidence from many studies

CAPIC provides a searchable database of all summary reviews of injury prevention

[http://www.capic.org.uk/systematic\\_reviews.html](http://www.capic.org.uk/systematic_reviews.html).

This section of the newsletter identifies notable individual studies which contain important new information for prevention.

### **Network meta-analysis to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions to increase the uptake of smoke alarms**

This study found that a combined approach of offering education, free or low cost equipment and a home safety inspection is likely to have the most impact on increasing the use of smoke alarms.

**Authors:** Nicola J. Cooper\*, Denise Kendrick, Felix Achana, Paula Dhiman, Zhimin He, Persephone Wynn, Elodie Le Cozannet, Pedro Saramago and Alex J. Sutton

**Reference:** Epidemiologic Reviews, Volume 34, Issue 1 Pp. 32-45

### **Promoting cycling: review of interventions**

Individual and community intervention programs, improving infrastructure, and marketing to households all increased cycling (usually self-reported) to a small extent. Environmental changes combined with advice and support may be needed to increase cycling substantially and in a sustainable way in the population.

**Authors:** Vuori I.

**Reference:** Clin. J. Sport. Med. 2011; 21(6): 542-544.

### **Risk factors for geriatric patient falls in rehabilitation hospital settings: a systematic review.**

Carpet flooring, vertigo, being an amputee, confusion, cognitive impairment, stroke, sleep disturbance, anticonvulsants, tranquilizers and antihypertensive medications, age between 71 and 80, previous falls, and need for transfer assistance are risk factors for geriatric patient falls in rehabilitation hospital settings.

**Authors:** Vieira ER, Freund-Heritage R, da Costa BR.

**Reference:** Clin. Rehabil. 2011; ePub

### **Older people's recruitment, sustained participation, and adherence to falls prevention interventions in institutional settings: a supplement to the Cochrane systematic review.**

Using median rates for recruitment (50%), attrition (15%) and adherence (80%), by 12 months, this review estimates that on average only a third of nursing care facility residents are likely to adhere to falls prevention interventions.

**Authors:** Nyman SR, Victor CR

**Reference:** Age Ageing 2011; ePub

### **Does Obesity Increase the Risk of Injury or Mortality in Motor Vehicle Crashes? A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.**

Evidence strongly supports the association of obesity with higher fatality and fractures of the lower extremities in MVCs. Contrary to the authors' hypothesis, 3 studies showed that obesity was a protective factor in reducing head injuries. Furthermore, the review shows that obesity was not a risk factor of MVC-related pelvic fractures and abdominal injuries.

**Authors:** Desapriya E, Giulia S, Subzwari S, Peiris DC, Turcotte K, Pike I, Sasges D, Hewapathirane DS.

**Reference:** Asia Pac. J. Public Health 2011; ePub


**RESEARCH NEWS**
**Speed Limits, Enforcement, and Health Consequences**

Speed limit violations are widespread in all countries for which statistics can be found. Speeding contributes more to the risk of traffic injury than do other risk factors for which estimates of population-attributable risk are available. Traffic speed strongly influences impact speed in crashes and therefore has major implications for public health.

Expected final online publication date for the Annual Review of Public Health Volume 33 is March 17, 2012.

**Authors:** Elvik R.

**Reference:** Annu. Rev. Public Health 2011; ePub

**A systematic review of validated methods for identifying seizures, convulsions, or epilepsy using administrative and claims data.**

The authors report that algorithm performance was highly variable, making it difficult to draw any strong conclusions. However, the PPVs were generally best in studies where epilepsy diagnoses were required. Using procedure codes for electroencephalograms or prescription claims for drugs possibly used for epilepsy or convulsions in the absence of a diagnostic code is not recommended. Many newer AEDs require no drug level monitoring, so requiring an AED level monitoring procedure in algorithms to identify epilepsy is not recommended.

**Authors:** Kee VR, Gilchrist B, Granner MA, Sarrazin NR, Carnahan RM.

**Reference:** Pharmacoepidemiol. Drug Saf. 2012; 21(Suppl 1): 183-193.

**A systematic review of validated methods for identifying suicide or suicidal ideation using administrative or claims data.**

Insufficient data exist to support specific recommendations regarding a preferred algorithm, and caution should be exercised in interpreting clinical and pharmacological epidemiological surveillance and research that rely on these codes as measures of suicide-related outcomes.

**Authors:** Walkup JT, Townsend L, Crystal S, Olfson M.

**Reference:** Pharmacoepidemiol. Drug Saf. 2012; 21 Suppl 1(ePub): 174-182.

**Acute cannabis consumption and motor vehicle collision risk: systematic review of observational studies and meta-analysis.**

Acute cannabis consumption is associated with an increased risk of a motor vehicle crash, especially for fatal collisions. This information could be used as the basis for campaigns against drug impaired driving, developing regional or national policies to control acute drug use while driving, and raising public awareness.

**Authors:** Asbridge M, Hayden JA, Cartwright JL.

**Reference:** Br. Med. J. BMJ 2012; 344(ePub): e536.

**The reliability of suicide statistics: a systematic review.**

The main finding was that there is a lack of systematic assessment of the reliability of suicide statistics. Few studies have been done, and few countries have been covered. The findings support the general under-reporting of suicide. In particular, nationwide studies and comparisons between countries are lacking.

**Authors:** Tollefsen IM, Hem E, Ekeberg O.

**Reference:** BMC Psychiatry 2012; 12(1): 9.

## ➔ RESEARCH NEWS

### **Person-to-Person Interventions Targeted to Parents and Other Caregivers to Improve Adolescent Health: A Community Guide Systematic Review.**

Interventions delivered to parents and other caregivers affect a cross-cutting array of adolescent risk and protective behaviors to yield improvements in adolescent health. Analysis from this review forms the basis of the recommendation by the Community Preventive Services Task Force presented elsewhere in this issue.

**Authors:** Burrus B, Leeks KD, Sipe TA, Dolina S, Soler R, Elder R, Barrios L, Greenspan A, Fishbein D, Lindegren ML, Achrekar A, Dittus P.

**Reference:** Am. J. Prev. Med. 2012; 42(3): 316-326.

## ➔ WHAT'S IN THE NEWS

This section of the newsletter contains injury prevention related news stories from the last 4 months.



### **Mind Cymru suicide counselling Asist project hailed as success**

A mental health charity's £1m lottery-funded scheme to train suicide counsellors has been hailed a success.



**Full Story** - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-17089699>

### **Suicide rate at HMP Manchester 'too high for too long'**

The suicide rate at a Manchester prison has been "too high for too long", inspectors have said.



**Full Story** - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-17121613>

### **Home treadmill burns risk warning from Swansea and Birmingham surgeons**

Plastic surgeons are warning parents of the risk of children being injured in accidents with home treadmills.

**Full Story** - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-south-west-wales-17103018>

### **Depression drugs 'causing falls'**

Elderly people with dementia are more likely to suffer falls if they are given anti-depressants by care home staff, a study claims.



**Full Story** - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-16618160>

### **Website lets London street violence victims report crimes online**

A website set up by a charity for crime victims is to allow the first online reporting to police of street robberies and assaults in London.



**Full Story** - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-17103251>

### **Hi-tech cars: Driver distraction warning in US**

US transport safety officials have proposed guidelines to limit driver distraction from gadgets built into cars.

**Full story** - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-17073764>

### **Safety message for NI's farmers after rise in deaths**

The Health and Safety Executive for NI (HSENI) is launching an initiative to try and cut farm deaths.



**Full Story** - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-16709476>

### **Measures 'reduced suicide rate'**

Measures introduced to lower the suicide rate in England and Wales in the past decade appear to have been successful, according to an analysis.



**Full Story** - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-16833630>

### **Self-harm common in teenagers, Australian study shows**

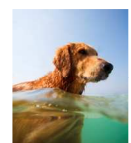
One in 12 people self-harm in their teenage years, a long-term study has found.



**Full Story** - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-15759946>

### **Why do people rush in to rescue their dogs from water?**

A picture of a man who stripped down to his underwear and crawled across a frozen river to rescue his trapped dog has emerged. But why do people risk their lives to save dogs?



**Full Story** - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-17013243>

## → WHAT'S IN THE NEWS

### London 2012 funds pond swimming lessons in Bangladesh

Children in Bangladesh are being taught to swim as part of a programme run by the London 2012 Olympics organisation.



Full Story - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-16034346>

### Welsh government targets 50% reduction in road deaths

High-risk road users such as young drivers are to be targeted in a bid to halve the number of people killed or seriously hurt on Welsh roads.

Full Story - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-16689093>

### Go Figure: Are country roads more dangerous than city roads?

Is city driving more dangerous than country driving? It's a much harder question than you think, writes Michael Blastland.



Full Story - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-16631597>

### Crash24: Live London map

As part of the BBC's Crash24 project, a team of reporters is on the road with London Ambulance Service, tracking and recording crashes across the capital over 24 hours.



Full Story - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-15820072>

### Sports stars back rail campaign to tackle suicide

A hard-hitting campaign to tackle suicide on the rail network in Northern Ireland is due to be launched at Belfast's Central Station later.



Full Story - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-17051416>

### Cannabis drivers 'twice as likely to cause car crash'

Drivers who use cannabis up to three hours before driving are twice as likely to cause a collision as those not under the influence of drugs or alcohol, says a Canadian study.



Full Story - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-16961112>

### Experts to consider case for new drug driving offence

Ministers are asking a panel of experts to consider the scientific case for a new criminal offence of driving a car shortly after taking an illegal drug.

Full Story - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-16392880>

### Speed sign painted on house in Devon 'a success'

A man who painted a 15ft (4.5m) 30mph sign on his house in a Devon village says he believes it has helped cut speeding in the area.

Full Story - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-16105371>

### Study examines higher suicide rate in Scotland

An increase in the number of Scottish men taking their own lives has led to a widening gap in suicide rates between Scotland and England and Wales, a study has suggested.

Full Story - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-16950313>

### Devon knife amnesty after stab crime 'spike'

A 10-day knife amnesty has started in south Devon after police reported a "spike" in knife-related crime.

Full Story - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-16636303>



### Driving while using a smartphone tested

A study on the use of smartphones while driving suggests that using the devices while in charge of a motor vehicle can be as dangerous as drink- or drug-driving.



Full Story - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-17228938>

### London cycle safety campaign moves to Westminster

Cyclists in London have protested in Westminster calling on the government to make the capital's roads safer, ahead of a parliamentary debate.



Full Story - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-17134037>

### Cycling is unsafe in UK urban areas, says poll

Research by Sustrans finds 56% of people believe cycling in built-up areas is dangerous and 70% seek a 20mph speed limit

Full Story - <http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/bike-blog/2012/feb/20/cycling-unsafe-uk-urban-areas-poll?INTCMP=SRCH>

## WHAT'S IN THE NEWS

### **Fears for air passengers' safety over new EU rules that would allow pilots to fly despite being awake for almost 24 hours**

Aeroplane pilots have warned passengers' lives will be put at risk by EU proposals to relax British flying rules.

Full Story - <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2104794/New-EU-rules-allow-pilots-fly-despite-awake-24->



### **Now the French say holidaymakers have to carry a breathalyser kit in their car**

The gadgets, designed so that drivers can test themselves to ensure they are under drink-drive limits, are the latest addition to a list of rules for driving on the other side of the Channel.

Full Story - <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2104024/Now-French-say-holidaymakers-carry-breathalyser-kit->



### **Clocks change bill runs out of time in Commons**

A bid to move the UK's clocks forward by an hour for a three-year trial period has failed after the legislation ran out of time in the Commons.



Full Story - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-16649868>

### **Derbyshire woman wants mobility scooter driving tests**

A Derbyshire woman who was hit by a mobility scooter wants mandatory tests for people who drive them.

Full Story -

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-16870616>

### **How close are we to a crash-proof car?**

Every year, 1.3 million people are killed and 50 million injured on the world's roads. Carmakers are racing to create a vehicle that will never crash, but can it be done and will drivers accept a computer that overrides their driving?

Full Story - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-15820069>

### **Risk of fire death higher in Northern Ireland**

The risk of deaths and injuries from fire is still higher in Northern Ireland than in other parts of the UK, according to an audit office report.



Full Story - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-16255534>

### **210,000 people face alcohol death risk, warn doctors**

Failure to reform alcohol laws could lead to 210,000 preventable deaths in England and Wales in the next 20 years, doctors have warned.



Full Story - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-17073816>

### **Learner drivers could be 'risk on motorways' this year**

There are fears more accidents will happen on Britain's motorways when learners are allowed to drive on them later this year.



Full Story - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/17093564>

### **'Clare's Law' gives 'right to ask' on domestic violence**

People in some parts of England and Wales will soon be able to find out from police if their partners have a history of domestic violence.

Full Story - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-17254163>



### **Campaigners call for compulsory drug and alcohol education**

Every year thousands of children get involved in drugs, often with tragic consequences.

Some parents, who have lost their children that way, are leading a new campaign to make drug and alcohol education compulsory as part of the national curriculum, after the government dropped plans to do so.

Full Story - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-17254982>

### **Helmet cam brings justice for road rage victims**

The footage – all too typical of what urban cyclists regularly see – has helped convict dangerous drivers

Full Story - <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/bike-blog/2012/feb/22/youtube-justice-road-rage-victims?INTCMP=SRCH>

**FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS****15th March 2012****Road Safety Seminar 2012: Practical Evaluation Skills**

Venue: Birmingham, United Kingdom

<http://www.rosipa.com/events/roadsafetyseminar/>**19th - 20th March 2012****SPORTVISION2012: Volunteering, Fitness Doping, Financing & Health**

Venue: Copenhagen, Denmark

<http://www.sportvision2012.eu/home>**23rd March 2012****"Aiming for Zero"**

Venue: London

<http://www.pacts.org.uk/events.php?id=27>**29th March 2012****Bristol's 3rd Annual Falls Prevention Update**

Venue: Council House, College Green, Bristol, UK

**26th April 2012****National Water Safety Seminar 2012**

Venue: Birmingham, United Kingdom

<http://www.rosipa.com/events/waterseminar/>**26th April 2012****Health and Safety Reform 2012: Reducing the Burden of Red Tape**

Venue: The Barbican, London

<http://www.publicserviceevents.co.uk/212/health-and-safety-reform>**27th April 2012****Falls Prevention and Management in Older People Conference**

Venue: London, United Kingdom

<http://www.healthcareconferencesuk.co.uk/falls-prevention-in-older-people>**15th May 2012****Health and Safety Expo**

Birmingham, United Kingdom

<http://www.safety-health-expo.co.uk/>**17th May 2012****Speed, the 4th international congress on speed reduction and control**

Venue: London

<http://www.roadsafetyforum.org/events/annualconference.aspx>**21st - 23rd May 2012****2nd International wellbeing at work conference**

Venue: Manchester, UK

<http://www.hsl.gov.uk/health-and-safety-conferences/wellbeing-2nd-international-conference-2012/home.aspx/>**22nd - 27th May 2012****12th World Congress on Environment Health**

Venue: Vilnius, Lithuania

<http://www.ifeh2012.org/welcome>**4th - 5th June 2012****The 3rd European Regional Conference on Safe Communities***The future role of the Fire and Rescue Service in the sustainability of Safe Communities in Europe*

Venue: Falköping, Sweden

Contact: Titti Waltherum [titti.waltherum@falkoping.se](mailto:titti.waltherum@falkoping.se)

**FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS****10th -13th June 2012****Canadian Multidisciplinary Road Safety Conference**

Venue: Alberta, Canada

[www.carsp.ca/cmrrsc.htm](http://www.carsp.ca/cmrrsc.htm)**11th - 14th June 2012****National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Conference and Expo**

Venue: Las Vegas

<http://www.abstractsonline.com/login/login.aspx?mKey={041FE787-4BE8-4CC2-A838-E749CC812F5F}>**12th June 2012****Child Safety Conference: It's Everyone's Responsibility**

Venue: Radisson Blu Hotel Glasgow, Scotland

**18th-22nd June 2012****Falls Awareness Week**<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/health-wellbeing/national-falls-awareness-week/>**18th - 24th June 2012****Child Safety Week**<http://www.childsafetyweek.org.uk/child-safety-week/press-room/>**26th—28th June 2012****Trading Standards Institute Annual Conference**

Venue: Manchester, UK

<http://www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/events/TSIConference2012.cfm>**4th—7th July 2012****17th Annual Congress of the European College of Sports Science**

Venue: Bruges, Belgium

<http://www.ecss-congress.eu/2012/>**10th September 2012****13th International Conference on Falls and Postural Stability**

Venue: Leeds United Kingdom

[http://www.bgs.org.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1853&Itemid=807](http://www.bgs.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1853&Itemid=807)**1st—5th October 2012****11th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion**

Venue: Wellington, New Zealand

<http://www.conference.co.nz/worldsafety2012>**18th—19th October 2012****Fifth European Alcohol Policy Conference**

Venue: Stockholm, Sweden

[http://www.eurosafe.eu.com/csi/eurosafe2006.nsf/www/VwContent/41B6C2537117C342C12579680032B68B/\\$file/fifth%20european%20alcohol%20policy%20conf%20draft%20programme%5B1%5D.pdf](http://www.eurosafe.eu.com/csi/eurosafe2006.nsf/www/VwContent/41B6C2537117C342C12579680032B68B/$file/fifth%20european%20alcohol%20policy%20conf%20draft%20programme%5B1%5D.pdf)**24th - 25th October 2012****Third International Conference on Violence in the Health Sector**

Venue: Vancouver, Canada

<http://www.oudconsultancy.nl/vancouver/index.html>



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If you have any interesting news relating  
to injury prevention please contact one of  
our researchers!