

# Reducing the burden of trauma: An environmental scan on the impact of injury prevention initiatives in Nova Scotia

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## INTRODUCTION

- Trauma systems play a key role in responding to injury and reducing the burden of trauma through **injury prevention (IP)** partnerships and initiatives.
- Trauma Nova Scotia, a provincial trauma program, recently started building capacity and partnerships to lead development of IP initiatives across NS.
- **Research Objective:** To identify, describe, and evaluate the impact of IP initiatives implemented to date in NS.

## METHODS

- **Environmental scan** of past/present IP initiatives in NS.
- Data were collected through semi-structured interviews with key informants from community organizations and governmental departments, and a **content analysis methodology** was employed to identify major themes.
- A rapid review of the published and grey literature was conducted to collect available data on local IP initiatives.

## RESULTS

- Past and present IP initiatives in NS primarily focus on road safety, falls prevention and suicide prevention.
- Initiatives to improve **road safety** have targeted helmet use, off-road vehicles, car seats, e-scooters and driving while intoxicated; **falls** prevention initiatives targeted older adults; **suicide** prevention initiatives were aimed at specific age, gender, and community groups.
- Initiatives included research, policy, strategic planning, education, outreach, advocacy, and advisory efforts; **addiction and substance abuse** (primarily alcohol use) were recurring and overarching themes.

## DISCUSSION

- Interviewees noted **challenges** with measuring the effectiveness of IP initiatives; commonly cited barriers included personnel shortages, selective funding, data access, and the lack of a unified assessment tool.
- At present, NS does not have a singular directive and leadership role for IP across the province.



**Figure 1.** Approach to prevention of major traumatic injuries in Nova Scotia.

Organization	IP Priorities					
	Falls	Head Injury	Road Safety	Substances & Addiction	Suicide	Other
ACIP	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Child Safety Link	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
NS Dept. Health & Wellness	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Injury Free NS	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Roots For Hope				✓	✓	
Trauma NB	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Dept. Seniors and LTC	✓					✓
Public Health, NS Health	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Brain Injury Assoc. of NS	✓	✓	✓			✓

**Table 1.** Injury prevention priorities in Nova Scotia across various organizations. ACIP = Atlantic Collaborative on Injury Prevention; LTC = longterm care; NB = New Brunswick.

