

## Injury Prevention Definitions

- **Accident** – random or chance event that cannot be prevented
- **Injury** – the result of an act that damages, harms, or hurts; unintentional or intentional damage to the body resulting from acute exposure to thermal, mechanical, electrical or chemical energy or from the absence of such essentials as heat or oxygen
- **Injury control** – the scientific approach to injury that includes analysis, data acquisition, identification of problem injuries in high risk groups, option analysis and implementing and evaluating countermeasures
- **Injured patient** – usually involves a contractual relationship and is based on adherence to standards providers of specialized services to meet the needs of the severely
- **Injury prevention** – efforts to forestall or prevent events that might result in injuries
- **Injury rate** – a statistical measure describing the number of injuries expected to occur in a defined number of people (usually 100,000) within a defined period (usually 1 year). Used as an expression of the relative risk of different injuries or groups
- **Mechanism of injury** – the source of forces that produce mechanical deformations and physiologic responses that cause an anatomic lesion or functional change in humans
- **Morbidity rate** – the proportion of hospitalizations and emergency department visits to population
- **Mortality rate** – the proportion of deaths to population
- **Primary prevention** – aims to prevent disease or injury before it occurs. i.e. – legislation and enforcement, education, bicycle rodeo with helmet distribution, gun safety lock distribution/education
- **Secondary prevention** – reduces the impact of a disease or injury that has already occurred and/or helps to reduce repeat injuries. i.e. – helmet replacement program, SBIRT, Child Life Services
- **Tertiary prevention** – softens the impact of an injury that has lasting effects. i.e. – rehabilitation, support groups