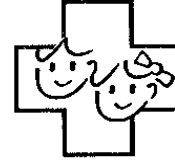




Department of Hygiene & Epidemiology
University of Athens



CEREPRI
Center for Research and
Prevention of Injuries

Secretariat of the Working Party on Accidents and Injuries

Brief Report of CEREPRI Activities December 2004

Assoc. Professor Eleni Petridou
Director



Department of Hygiene & Epidemiology
University of Athens



CEREPRI
Center for Research and
Prevention of Injuries

Secretariat of the Working Party on Accidents and Injuries

Table of Contents

About CEREPRI	3
CEREPRI's Activities at a Glance	4
About EDISS	5
Program Support	6
At European level	6
At National Level	10
Information Sharing	12
Future plans	13
Contact information	14
Contacts	14

About CEREPRI

Established in 1991 by the Public Health Department of the Hellenic Ministry of Health, Welfare and Social Securities (OJ Hellenic Parliament 1050/91), CEREPRI (Center for Research and Prevention of Injuries) aims to **reduce the number of people who sustain injuries** in Greece and contributes to international injury research and safety promotion.

Nowadays, it is well known that injuries constitute the most serious health problem facing children and adults until the age of 34 years. One third of the total number of deaths from birth to age 14 is caused by injuries, while during adolescence and young adulthood the number of deaths caused by injuries rapidly increases to 75% and 90% respectively. In fact, **injury is one of the greatest killers of people and children** worldwide, however, a considerable proportion of injuries are both predictable and preventable.

CEREPRI plays a central role in the field of injury prevention in Greece as well as is the main center representing Greece nationally and internationally regarding injury prevention. It not only conducts epidemiological and statistical programs, but also goes beyond facts and figures to accurately develop prevention strategies in many areas that have not previously been dealt with such as intimate partner violence and accidents and injuries among the elderly. As a result, CEREPRI has become **recognized internationally as a leader in injury prevention** and representatives from all over the world correspond with us to access our information for use in their own countries. The benefits derived from our Center affect both Greece and other EU countries positively.

The Center operates on the premises of the Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology of the Medical School at the University of Athens. The Director of the Center is Associate Professor Eleni Petridou.

CEREPRI's Activities at a Glance

SAFETY PROMOTION	<p>CEREPRI contributed to the promotion of new knowledge, presenting the generated results to more than 20 scientific conferences (national and international) during 2004. In addition, more than 70 radio and television interviews, and approximately 40 newspaper articles aiming to increase the sensitivity and awareness of the public took place. Books, articles, program material leaflets and booklets about injury prevention are available from our library.</p>
EDUCATION	<p>CEREPRI organizes academic seminars, conferences and workshops for school students, teachers and medical students. In the context of injury prevention programs educational materials including textbooks, audiovisual and CD-ROM were developed and distributed.</p>
EPIDEMIOLOGIC RESEARCH	<p>Research topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Burn injuries from motorcycle exhaust pipes ▪ Injuries in the Metro ▪ Injuries due to fireworks ▪ Household injuries ▪ Playground safety ▪ Road traffic accidents ▪ Injuries among infants, disabled children and elderly people
PROGRAM SUPPORT	<p>Recent collaboration and support in European Programs co-financed by the EC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SECRETARIAT of the European Working Party on Accidents and Injuries ▪ European Network for Safety among Elderly (EUNESE) ▪ DAPHNE: Development and Pilot Testing of a Module Concerning the Role of Health Providers in Assessment and Intervention of Intimate Partner Violence ▪ Ownership of data, rules of dissemination/confidentiality, data protection needs ▪ An initiative for the collection of data regarding injuries in the consumer services sector ▪ Cost benefit analysis of the injury prevention programs 1999-2003 and final project evaluation ▪ Development of a screening tool for the identification of Intimate Partner Violence <p>Recent Injury prevention intervention programs at the Community Level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unintentional Childhood drowning injury prevention campaign ▪ Child Car Restraint Loan Program

About EDISS

CEREPRI has been assigned to collect, manage and analyze the HLA (Home and Leisure Activities) injuries in Greece through the former EHLASS project. In addition, CEREPRI also collects data for all kinds of injuries, including occupational and traffic. In 1995, EDISS (Emergency Department Injury Surveillance System) was created and contains data from 1996.

The system provides high quality data collected by trained health visitors through personal interviews with parents/guardians and the patients themselves who have been admitted to Accident and Emergency Departments of four hospitals around the country. The collaborating hospitals are the following: A. Kyriakou Children's Hospital, General Trauma Hospital "Asclapieion Voula's", and Regional Hospitals of Volos and Corfu. The two regional hospitals mainly cover injury cases from the respective administrative regions that represent their catchment areas. General Trauma Hospital "Asclapieion Voula's" is one of the two trauma hospitals in the Greater Athens region where most adult injury victims are admitted while childhood injuries are mainly admitted at the two children's hospitals in central Athens, one being A. Kyriakou Children's Hospital. Therefore, the results are considered to be of reasonable representatives of injuries in the underlying population. **The EDISS database contains more than 350,000 injury records along with an extensive file of variables associated with each case.**

Program Support

At European level

CEREPRI collaborates and supports the Public Health Program of the European Commission.

European Programs that are presently being coordinated by CEREPRI and in development:

Secretariat of the European Working Party on Accidents and Injuries

As of April 1 2004, CEREPRI was granted the responsibility of Coordination and Administration of the Working Party on Accidents and Injuries. Some of the key objectives during the two-year term, as described in the contract, are to:

- **Maintain, strengthen and expand** the Working Party on Accidents and Injuries
- **Integrate new member states and applicant countries** – develop a informative package regarding injury prevention information
- **Ensure the compilation of injury statistical and epidemiological data** documentation from existing sources in collaboration with the Eurostat and make them available to the Commission
- Development of a **long term strategic plan for injury prevention**

In the above roles, the Secretariat will ensure the proper transmission of information to the Commission for its supervisory role, to the WP-AI members as well as to the project leaders to ensure the implementation of the projects awarded in a way that conforms to the PHP priorities.

Funding

The Secretariat is financially supported by the European Commission under the Work Plan 2003, RAM and the University of Athens, Greece.

For further information on this project, please contact Stephanie Anastasopoulou at sanast@med.uoa.gr

European Network for Safety among Elderly (EUNESE)

For the first time in the recorded history of medicine, mortality among the elderly is declining as fast as mortality among the younger ages and life expectancy for those who have reached the age of 65 increases sharply. Indeed, on the 65th birthday, in the EU-25 a woman can expect to live another 20 years and slightly less, if man.

The problem now is how to improve the quality of life of the elderly and reduce the most unacceptable fraction of the mortality that due to injuries. Indeed, every year almost 100 000 elderly in the EU-25, that is more than 250 people die every day, only of this most preventable cause of death, namely injuries, whereas more than one third of the health care expenditure is spent during the last year of life.

Initiated by CEREPRI and run under the auspices of DG SANCO within the framework of the Public Health Program of the European Union, the **European Network for Safety among Elderly (EUNESE)** Project began on July 1st, 2004 and will run for 36 months. This project involves over 30 partners representing 23 different EU countries and aims to reduce injuries among senior citizens. Specifically, acquired knowledge and policy prevention strategies will be built upon to establish an EU-wide network of safety promotion among both those who live independently and nursing home/institutionalized residents. Further, a best practices policy manual and commonly acceptable information materials will be developed as well as the implementation of pilot projects to enhance safety, reduce injuries and promote health among senior citizens in the EU. We feel confident that this project will succeed in making a significant difference in this area of health. Indeed, EUNESE is a project of paramount importance, as there is no other such initiative for the harmonization of policies and the development of a concise strategy on injury prevention among the elderly.

For further information on this project, please contact Sofia Skarveli at sskarveli@med.uoa.gr

Development and pilot testing of a module concerning the role of health care providers in assessment and intervention of IPV

Medical schools do not provide training on IPV issues and, at EU level, there are hardly any training modules focusing on IPV, however, physicians must be trained to screen, recognize and treat victims of IPV. CEREPRI is undertaking a project, run under the auspices of DAPHNE of the European Commission, aimed at developing and pilot testing a module for training future health professionals in the identification

and treatment of IPV victims. Specifically, **a module for medical students** concerning the role of health care provider in assessment and intervention of IPV was developed and piloted in the medical schools. This project has developed and will continue to expand **a network of experts for training, public speaking and consultation on IPV** and other health care issues derived from IPV.

For further information on this project, please contact Kiki Petroulaki at kpetroul@med.uoa.gr

Ownership of data, rules of dissemination/confidentiality, data protection needs

CEREPRi has initiated this sub-project to the Austrian project Injury Database Project "Maintenance, Development and Promotion of the European Injury Database (IDB)" of the Public Health Programme 2003 and aims to suggest the normatively desirable directions of a common European policy regarding the ownership of data in injuries (*i.e. who has the right to access IDB, under which circumstances, who is the owner of the data in injuries, what are the rights of the owner, what are the rights of the patient*). This is a two year program and began on July 2004.

For further information on this project, please contact Fereniki Panagopoulou at ferenikipan@yahoo.gr

A selection of European Programs coordinated and completed by CEREPRi:

An Initiative for the Collection of Data Regarding Injuries in the Consumer Services Sector (Funding year: 2002 / Started on: 01-12-2001/ Planned duration: 20 months)

The project was the first attempt to shed light in the emerging field of injuries in the consumer services sector in Europe. Even though the latter accounts for over 70 % of the GDP of the European economies, it has been relatively neglected. Few, if any, injury prevention initiatives have focused on the patterns of injuries in this sector, the potential implications and the methods of prevention. Initiated by CEREPRi and run under the auspices of DG SANCO within the framework of the Injury Prevention Program of the European Commission, this project was the first attempt to deal with the problem of injuries in the consumer services sector in Europe.

The methodological component provided a definition of unsafe consumer services, a classification of these injuries, a distinction between the service injuries and a description of the lines of accountability. The review concluded that academic literature provides useful insights however has limitations, newspaper archives are unreliable as a source of data and the IDB database offers valuable insights in terms of frequency and patterns but does not allow for exact definitions. The analysis of

8

the questionnaire is in the process of being concluded. The final report is available at the following link www.euroipn.org.

Cost Benefit Analysis of the Injury Prevention Program 1999-2003 and Final Project Evaluation (Funding year: 2002 / Started on: 01-09-2002 / Planned duration: 16 months)

CEREPRI was commissioned by the EC to undertake a study to evaluate the cost benefit of the previous Injury Prevention Program (IPP) of the EU. The proposal was to take on the evaluation of the IPP network in continuation of the secretarial-evaluation function that was upheld by the Netherlands for the period of 2000–2001 and Denmark for the period of 2001–2002. The project provided an evidence-based assessment of the results achieved in the interval 1999-2001. It customized an IT platform to facilitate project management and both internal and external evaluation and undertook a cost-benefit analysis of programs that have been funded by the IPP initiative in the past. The final report is available at the following link www.euroipn.org.

Development of a Screening Tool for the Identification of Intimate Partner Violence (Funding year: 2001 / Started on: 01-10-2001/ Planned duration: 18 months)

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is an extremely important social, cultural, public health and legal problem affecting all societies. Accurate assessment and proper illustration of physical and emotional consequences of IPV are necessary prerequisites for the successful application of any intervention program. With this in mind, CEREPRI initiated the above project, run under the auspices of DG SANCO within the framework of the Injury Prevention Program of the European Commission. Through the critical review of published references and the assessment of existing screening tools and research methodologies, a questionnaire, aimed at identifying IPV, was developed and applied for a six-month period to patients visiting the Emergency Departments of the selected hospitals in Greece and the participating EU countries. The percentage of IPV identified through this methodology was compared to those derived from the standard notations made by the former EHLASS, the **result being that screening is an efficient and appropriate way to document cases and help victims of such abuse**. This project enabled participants to collaborate in a topic of substantial public health importance, facilitating exchanges of knowledge and experience between public health programs in different EU countries as well as identifying useful information concerning the profile and consequences of IPV. The final report is available at the following link www.euroipn.org

At National Level

Unintentional Childhood Drowning Injury Prevention Campaign

Drowning and near drowning represent major causes of death and neurologic impairment. During a five-year period (1996- 2000), **75 drowning and near drowning injuries were recorded** by the Emergency Department Injury Surveillance System (EDISS) in Greece. In the attempt to address the serious issue of unintentional drowning injuries in childhood in Greece, CEREPRI has been participating in a two-year campaign within the context of the European Child Safety Alliance **to prevent and control unintentional drowning injuries among children**, with CILAG and the Hellenic Society for Social Pediatrics and Health Promotion.

This campaign aimed at **increasing awareness among the scientific and educational community, mass media, interested parties in the tourist sector and the public at large** concerning the serious problem of unintentional drowning and the prevention and control of these injuries among children.

The main achievement was **the building of a national network that has brought together governmental and non-governmental organizations**, aiming to work together towards the same objective, which is to combat a problem that has high priority in the public health agenda. Links with related projects and activities of the ECSA have facilitated the production of pertinent scientific knowledge and the exchange of experiences. **Public awareness of preventing unintentional childhood drowning seems to have increased in Greece and resulted in a decrease of drowning among Greek children**, as, according to the data that were requested from the Hellenic Ministry of Mercantile Marine, **not one child drowned** in the sea, during the summer of 2003.

Child Car Restraint Loan Program

Initiated in 1996 by CEREPRI in collaboration with the Alexandra Maternity Hospital, and being the first of its kind, this program increases awareness among young parents as well as informs them about the need for safe transportation of infants eight (8) months of age and younger in automobiles through the provision of child car restraints. Car restraints are rented for a minimum fee to interested parents usually

for a period of six months, providing them with a feasible alternative as car restraints can often be quite costly.

The program involves:

- Proper use of infant car seats is precisely defined, explained and presented by a specially trained health visitor to all participants.
- Specialists educate parents about the different types of car restraints dependent on the ages

This program is considered to be one of the most effective intervention methods of reducing childhood morbidity and mortality due to road traffic injuries.

For further information, please contact Stellina Kiosse at skiosse@med.uoa.gr

Information Sharing

CEREPRI contributes to the promotion of new knowledge on injury prevention, presenting the generated results at scientific conferences as well as through the mass media in the form of interview, radio messages and newspaper articles, aimed at increasing the sensitivity and awareness of the public. In 2003, CEREPRI collaborators were invited to speak on **more than 70 national radio and television programs** about the health concerns related to injuries and preventive methods and results from our scientific work were presented at **more than 20 national and international conferences**.

There is a rapidly increasing request for EDISS (Emergency Department Injury Surveillance System) data, research publications, and reports by national and international institutes as well as by private individuals. Throughout the years 2003-2004, CEREPRI **has shared information with more than 35 interested parties**.

The following is a very brief example of some situations in which CEREPRI was involved in 2004:

- 70 interviews in national radio and television programs
- 40 newspapers articles
- Participation in 4 international and 10 national conferences and 15 European meetings
- 17 publications, 6 accepted publications and 6 submissions; 3 newsletters and 3 reports
- Shared injury data recorded, analyzed and interpreted by CEREPRI with 10 EU stakeholders and 10 reprints
- Shared information from the CEREPRI Library with 22 stakeholders
- Several interventions for safety promotion in the region

Future plans

CEREPRI aims to continue to expand its activities and to set higher targets combating the injury epidemic, participating to new projects, collaborating with experts around the world and enhancing the extrapolation of effective preventive measures and policies. In this perspective, CEREPRI will undertake two new projects in 2005:

- **Strategies and Best Practices for the Reduction of Injuries (APOLLO) (Public Health Programme – DG SANCO)**

APOLLO is an umbrella of projects coordinated by the SECRETARIAT of the Working Party on Accidents and Injuries (CEREPRI) that involves WP-AI members. APOLLO aims to provide: (a) the evidence on the health and financial burden of injuries and easily measurable indicators and (b) the strategic planning with specific recommendations on how to decrease the most common injuries in the EU member states based on best practices and success factors identified early in the progress of work in contrast to legislative, regulatory or customary barriers. Concurrently, the implementation component will focus on two injury fields: (a) falls among elderly and (b) injuries among vulnerable road users. Both areas are chosen because they are linked to high injury burden and/or existence of good preventive measures and yet these measures have not been translated into effective prevention. The proposal will develop EU prevention models, expand on recommendations from the strategic planning and measure the results, in terms of actual efficacy of the initiatives undertaken. Dissemination activities will culminate in scientific platforms, with input from practitioners in the field, injury victims and policy makers. In total the proposal aims to deliver a pragmatic vision for change in injury prevention, develop tools to achieve it, implement parts of this change and disseminate its results.

- **Improving the response to Intimate Partner Violence in military settings (DAPHNE II – DG Justice and Internal Affairs)**

The aims of the project are threefold: (a) to develop and pilot test a health education program for sensitising young army recruits on the problem of IPV, (b) to study the feasibility of implementing this program in selected military settings and, where feasible, to pilot the program and evaluate its effectiveness and (c) to develop a network of IPV experts in participating countries. Targeting this special male population group may prove to be a valid way to perform primary prevention of IPV.

Contact information

The CEREPRI staff is available to provide information to those interested in the activities and projects of the Center.

❖ **Contacts**

CEREPRI

Center for Research and Prevention on injuries among the Young

Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology

Medical School, University of Athens

Mikras Asias 75

115 27, Athens

Greece

Tel: +30 210 7462 187, 210 7462 201

Fax: +30 210 7462 105

www.cc.uoa.gr/health/socmed/hygien/cerepri/

Director

Petridou Eleni (epetrid@med.uoa.gr)

Publications and Reports Information

Vanessa Pentogalou (vpentog@med.uoa.gr)

Database and Statistical Information

Stellina Kiosse (skiosse@med.uoa.gr)

European Program Information

Stephanie Anast (sanast@med.uoa.gr)