The Safe States Alliance (formerly the State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association (STIPDA)) is currently implementing the 2009 State of the States Survey (SOTS), the third implementation assessing capacity among state injury and violence prevention programs in the US. The 2009 SOTS Survey will be administered in early 2010 to collect data on programs in 2009. Based on previous years participation, STIPDA anticipates 50 states and the District of Columbia (DC) participating in the 2009 Survey. As this is the third implementation of the survey, there will be an increased focus on trends in the analysis. A report summarising the findings of the 2009 survey will build on the 2005 and 2007 surveys and begin to illustrate trends and changes in state injury and violence prevention programs over time. The report will be produced in the fall 2010. The survey and report are both organised around the five core components identified by STIPDA as essential elements of a comprehensive state health department Injury and Violence Prevention (IVP) program. They are: build a solid infrastructure for IVP; collect and analyse injury and violence data; design, implement and evaluate programs; provide technical support and training; and affect public policy. The findings and recommendations in this report will provide key information that will be used to educate federal, state and local prevention partners of the need for comprehensive IVP programs grounded in a public health approach and located within state health departments.