Although we are disappointed more is not said about children and adolescents, as an introduction—one that sets the tone for the book—consistent with the beliefs of many readers of this journal—Injury Control is a welcome addition to our library and especially those working in this field.

Because we truly believe this, we are surprised at how this book has been marketed. There is no evidence that WHO has assisted in its distribution and the publisher has not promoted this book well. Have any readers seen it announced or received flyers about it? No copy was sent to Injury Prevention for review despite the fact that it is customary for publishers to do so.

These points aside, this is an important addition to our understanding. No injury prevention program should be without a copy. In a world where injury prevention is still on the periphery of public health, Injury Control: A Global View is a welcome addition. And for those who intend to work in an international program, it is essential reading.

SUNITA Nayar

Injury Research and Prevention: A Text

Injury has long been recognised as important and preventable in Australia, with the initial focus on the road environment and occupational health. Public health interest in the problem has grown since the mid 1980s when the Commonwealth Government's 'Better Health Commission' identified injury as a key target. Thus a considerable body of expertise has been developed in Australia in collecting injury data and applying it in a range of injury initiatives. This expertise has been harnessed in the production of Injury Research and Prevention: A Text. This provides a state of the art overview of the field of injury prevention for both practitioners and academics and draws together contributions from 20 authors from a range of disciplines in Australia.

Monash University's Accident Research Centre has developed short courses on injury prevention and research and this publication was produced as the proceedings of the second course held in 1994. The four main sections of the book cover (1) research methods, principles of injury prevention and data sources, (2) specific injury problems and their prevention, (3) countermeasures and implementation strategies, and (4) evaluation.

One chapter by Joan Ozanne-Smith is entitled 'Child Injury Prevention' but many of the other chapters relate to children and adolescents, for example, the development of preventive strategies relating to bunk beds and so forth. This chapter provides useful basic information for the newcomer to epidemiological research on concepts such as causality, exposure to risk, confounding, and different study designs and methods of analysis. It provides up-to-date information on the epidemiology of specific injury types and more discursive chapters on community based studies, institutionalisation of prevention and policy change. Perhaps such a broad remit means that some chapters work better than others.

This section on evaluation, for example, described the principles of evaluation well but could have benefited from more specific examples. Nevertheless there is much to be gleaned from this text, both internally and in the approach it adopts. Although of more practical relevance to practitioners and academics in Australia, it also provides a useful model for other countries interested in developing a greater pool of expertise in the field of injury prevention.

ELIZABETH TOWNER


This book is based on the proceedings of the Injury Prevention Conference conducted in Melbourne, Australia, July, 1994. The content draws heavily on Australian data and examples, and these were the most relevant to the intended audience.

The 21 different chapters are written by 21 different authors, all from Australia. The book is divided into four sections: research methods, epidemiology and principles of injury prevention, specific injury problems and their prevention, countermeasures and implementation strategies; and evaluation. The quality of individual chapters varies widely with considerable overlap in some areas. The first section includes a good overview of the role of statistics and modern epidemiology in injury research, and an excellent review of Australian injury data. Especially interesting is the historical trend, a two excellent examples of the effectiveness of product changes or regulations in reducing suicides from gas and barbiturate poisoning.

The second section on specific injury problems has an excellent chapter that summarises the Australian experience in reducing motor vehicle injuries. It documents a number of success stories, including studies on seatbelt effectiveness, bicycle helmets, random breath tests, and speed cameras. Over the past 23 years, Victoria (and Australia) went from one of the countries with the highest motor vehicle fatality rates to one of the lowest. This chapter alone would make the book worthwhile for any international audience. Other chapters cover the following injury areas: rural, intentional, sports, occupational, children, falls in the elderly, and consumer safety.

The third section reviews a number of specific countermeasures and implementation strategies, such as community injury prevention and the role of state health departments. The chapter on the role of law and injury prevention is interesting but restricted because of its discussion of the value of the coroner system to identify problems and advocate change, and to contrast it to the approaches taken in the US. The final section provides a short and diverse review of issues relating to evaluation of injury programs.

The book is written at a basic level targeted to those taking the Australian course, new injury practitioners and those looking for a text for a wider audience than Australia. It is based on the fact that because of its use to Australian examples and be an Australian text, there is little attempt to integrate the authors work with the wider body of injury literature from other countries. For example, the excellent reference text by Waller (Lexington Books, 1985) is not even mentioned. However, the Australian text could be a useful model for...