

## The Role of Public Health Professionals in Preventing Sport-Related Concussions and Subsequent Injury



Public health professionals can take many steps to prevent sport-related concussions, including:

- Conduct an environmental scan to understand your state Department of Health's (DOH) current involvement in the prevention of sport-related concussions.
- Identify roles that the DOH can play, especially in relation to concussion training, reporting systems, education, and media.
- Develop and disseminate model policies for concussion prevention and management to schools and school districts.
- Partner with coaches and school nurses in creating, implementing, and enforcing school policies on concussion prevention and management, including return-to-play protocols that are based on peer-reviewed science.
- Work with schools to establish concussion management teams that include health care professionals who have training in the treatment of concussions.
- Work with your state Department of Education to develop guidelines for appropriate classroom accommodations for students who have sustained sport-related concussions.
- Partner with your statewide TBI advisory board/council.
- Collaborate with health care providers to develop and provide training on identification of concussions and proper treatment.
- Conduct outreach to youth sports organizations and educate them about the prevention and management of sport-related concussions.
- Form a state team or become a member of a state team to evaluate the effectiveness of concussions laws and policies.

### Other Fact Sheets:

- [Overview](#)
- [Strategies for Preventing Sport-Related Concussions and Subsequent Injury](#)
- [Legislation on Sport-Related Concussions](#)
- [TBI Information and Resources](#)
- [References and Suggested Readings](#)

- Develop an MCH Block Grant state performance measure on the prevention of sport-related concussions.
- Collect, analyze and disseminate data on sport-related concussions to partners within public health and others who may benefit from the information.
- Provide data and information and evidence-informed practices to policy makers to assist them in their role to create policy, regulation and guidelines.
- Incorporate the prevention of sport-related concussions into state and local planning efforts.



CSN is a resource center for MCH and injury prevention professionals in State and Territorial health departments who are committed to reducing injuries and violence among children and adolescents. CSN is supported by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services.

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Children's Safety Network  
 Education Development Center, Inc.  
 43 Foundry Avenue  
 Waltham, MA 02453-8313

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