



Leaders in Applied Public Health Epidemiology

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CSTE is an organization that supports epidemiologists practicing at the state, territorial, tribal, and local levels.

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Injury Epidemiology and the Council on State and Territorial Epidemiologists

The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) is an organization of over 1,150 members working in Federal, state, local and tribal agencies, and U.S. Territories. CSTE provides training, capacity development, peer consultation, and also helps develop standards for the practice of epidemiology. CSTE also provides technical advice and assistance to state, federal and other public health agencies.

Although CSTE was originally started as an organization focused on communicable disease epidemiology, its scope now covers most areas of epidemiology, including chronic disease, infectious diseases, injury, substance abuse, and occupational and environmental public health. Promoting and improving public health surveillance in these areas continues to be a major focus of activities.

Each June CSTE holds its Annual Meeting which provides a forum for members, states and other partner organizations to interact on public health issues. The conference is typically attended by approximately 1000 epidemiologists, and includes plenary sessions as well as concurrent tracks in each subject area, including injury epidemiology.

Major current activities related to injury epidemiology include:

- **Workforce development:** CSTE has documented a large unmet need for well-trained epidemiologists, both in injury and in other subject areas. To help address that gap CSTE began a two-year, state-based applied epidemiology fellowship program in 2003 that is geared towards recent graduates from schools of public health who are interested in the practice of public health at the state or local level as a career focus.
- **Injury Surveillance Workgroups (ISW) 1-6:** CSTE has been involved in organizing and/or participating in all six of the ISWs, together with partners from the State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors: Association (STIPDA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), among others. The documents produced by the ISW process have been important tools for the development of state-based injury surveillance.
- **National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS):** CSTE has supported the development and enhancement of the NVDRS from its inception.
- **External cause coding improvement:** CSTE has led the Workgroup for External Cause Coding Improvement to help address incompleteness and lack of specificity of external cause coding, particularly in state-level datasets.