Since 1949, the South Dakota Safety Council has provided programs and services to help employers and workers, families and communities prevent injury. We are committed to the safety of all South Dakotans — at work, on the road, at home and at play.

Unintentional injuries are a leading cause of death, disability and economic loss in South Dakota. But deaths are just part of the story. In far greater numbers, non-fatal incidents alter lives and limit the potential of those who are injured.

For every injury death it’s estimated that there are three severe traumas, including brain and spinal cord injuries, ten injuries that require hospitalization and 100 injuries that result in emergency department treatment.

In addition to medical expenses, economic losses include wage and productivity costs, lost time, insurance and legal costs, uninsured costs and property damage.

AMONG RECENT TRENDS:

- Thirty-one work-related deaths were recorded in South Dakota in 2016, an increase of ten from 2015. Fatal work injuries in the state have ranged from a high of 46 in 1999 to a low of 20 in 2013.
- South Dakota’s 116 traffic fatalities in 2016 is a decrease of thirteen percent from the state’s total of 133 fatalities in 2015. South Dakota had the nation’s fourth lowest motor vehicle fatality rate in 2016. Our seat belt use rate increased slightly in 2016 to 74.2 percent (up from 73.6 percent in 2015).

In the pages of this annual report, you’ll learn more about the problem of injury in South Dakota, and the programs and services we’ve provided over the past year to help solve it. You’ll see how the leadership of our Board of Directors, our strong bonds with members and other partners, and the commitment of our staff combine to make a difference in the lives of South Dakotans.

OUR MISSION: To improve the quality of life for the people of South Dakota by reducing incidents, injuries and occupational illnesses from preventable causes.
Unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death in South Dakota from ages one through 39 and the third leading cause overall. In 2016*, 503 South Dakotans died from unintentional injuries. Tens of thousands more required medical care.

Falls were the leading cause of unintentional-injury death in 2016, taking the lives of 185 people, an increase from 2015.

Motor vehicle crashes were second — 116 people died on South Dakota roads, a decrease of 13 percent from the state’s total of 133 fatalities in 2015. South Dakota had the nation’s fourth lowest motor vehicle rate in 2016 and the nation’s third lowest fatality rate from 2014-2016. State officials say the drop in traffic fatalities is due to cooperative efforts by safety groups, law enforcement and the public. Three areas that continue to be prioritized are seat belt use, speed limits and sober driving.

Unintentional poisoning ranked third with 67 deaths, ten more than the previous year. Nationally, unintentional poisonings are the leading cause of injury death from ages 25-64. Most of these deaths are the result of opioid overdoses, including prescription painkillers and heroin.

Other leading causes of unintentional-injury death include threats to breathing (asphyxiation, aspiration, etc.), accounting for 27 deaths in 2016; pedestrian (14 deaths); smoke/fire/flame (10 deaths) and drowning (10 deaths). Overall, unintentional-injury deaths increased 6.7 percent from last year.

Unintentional injury has moved from the sixth leading cause of death in South Dakota in 2011 to a high of third in 2016. A break-out by racial group shows that unintentional injuries were the sixth leading cause of death at 5.5 percent for whites, but for the American Indian population, it was the first leading cause of death at 14.9 percent. Men are more likely to die from unintentional injuries than women, accounting for 70 percent of unintentional-injury deaths in 2016.

Fatal work injuries totaled 31 in 2016 for South Dakota, an increase from 21 in the previous year. Work-related deaths in the state have ranged from a high of 46 in 1999 to a low of 20 in 2013.

Falls, slips, or trips resulted in eight fatal work injuries and transportation incidents resulted in seven fatalities. These two major categories accounted for approximately 48 percent of all workplace fatalities in the state. The private agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sector had the largest number of fatalities with 16, up from 9 in 2015.

FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES BY SELECTED EVENT
United States and South Dakota, 2016

**UNINTENTIONAL INJURY DEATHS**
South Dakota Residents, 2016

![Pie chart showing the distribution of unintentional injury deaths in South Dakota.](image)

*Source: South Dakota Department of Health

*Most current data.
Occupational Safety and Health Training

We are committed to working with organizations to protect their workers and strengthen their workplace safety programs. Our training and consultation services, on-site support and safety management tools help employers prevent injuries, comply with regulations and achieve their goals:

- On-site consulting services such as safety audits provided customized solutions.
- Professional development programs increased significantly, with twelve Workplace Safety Certificate graduates (up from five in 2016) and twelve Advanced Safety Certificate graduates (up from zero in 2016).
- Popular classroom sessions included OSHA compliance training, program development, and train-the-trainer courses. Customized on-site training in first aid/CPR/AED, defensive driving, and occupational safety was delivered to 74 locations statewide.
- The South Dakota Safety & Health Conference, a flagship event for the state’s safety community, marked a quarter century as one-stop opportunity for learning, networking and elevating critical safety issues. Over six hundred people attended more than twenty educational sessions and consulted with 50-plus safety vendors in the sold-out exhibit hall. At the Governor’s Workplace Safety Awards Luncheon, Lt. Governor Matt Michels helped us recognize 42 South Dakota employers for excellence in safety.
- Our sponsoring partners were Sioux Empire Society for Human Resource Management, South Dakota Chiropractors Association, Avera Health, South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation, and Sanford Health.
- First Aid/CPR/AED training increased dramatically — reaching over 3,000 people statewide, a 67 percent increase from 2016. We also trained and certified a record 41 new instructors and distributed 19 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to member worksites across the state.
- Groundwork laid for two new member networking groups in Aberdeen and Rapid City, soon to join the East River Safety Coalition in Brookings and the Sioux Falls Member Network. The network meetings provide an opportunity for committed members to learn about current safety trends and concepts, network with peers, and discuss issues their organizations are facing.
- We also provided safety training materials and other safety products through partnerships with National Safety Council, J.J. Keller, ManComm, Kidde and Philips.

Traffic Safety

Traffic crashes are a significant cause of injury, death and economic loss in South Dakota. We work to make our roads safer through several programs and partnerships:

- Our network of certified instructors brought the National Safety Council’s classroom Defensive Driving Course to more than 1,045 adults in workplace and community training sessions. The training helped drivers refresh their skills and develop safe habits and attitudes.
- In partnership with the Department of Public Safety, the State Patrol, and the judicial system, we reached 122 young drivers, ages 14-25 through the “Alive @ 25” program. Alive @ 25 focuses on driver behaviors, judgment and decision-making, helping to reduce collisions, injuries and fatalities.
- Through an ongoing contract with the state of South Dakota, we completed our 41st year of coordinating the South Dakota Motorcycle Rider Education Program. This past year we offered 275 classes statewide, helping 1,489 motorcyclists enhance their skills and reduce their risk on the road. In total, we have trained 41,472 students over our forty-one years!

Our strong member retention rate, holding steady at 95 percent, reflects our continuing commitment to providing effective safety information, resources and expertise.
We invest every membership dollar in the promotion of safety and health. Your membership provides the foundation for developing safety programs that work. And our community programs help keep your employees safe away from work. Protecting lives and protecting your bottom line are closely linked.

Hundreds of companies — large and small, from a variety of industries — have formed partnerships with the South Dakota Safety Council, which now includes membership in the National Safety Council. Whether you’re updating an existing safety program or starting from scratch, membership in the South Dakota Safety Council gives you access to the resources you need:

- Free on-demand streaming videos.
- Free video library.
- Free workplace safety toolkits from National Safety Council (NSC).
- Free phone and e-mail consultation from our in-house safety and health experts.
- Access to NSC “Members Only” content, including downloadable posters, safety talks and presentations.
- Free NSC safety webinars.
- Free e-newsletters with the latest national and local safety and health news, issues and regulatory developments.
- Special pricing on training and reference materials, and safety products.
- Discounts on all occupational, first aid/CPR/AED and driver training classes.
- NSC’s Safety + Health magazine mailed to your designated employees for free.
- The annual South Dakota Safety & Health Conference, a great opportunity for education and networking.
- Packaged training programs, manuals, and other safety resources, discounted for members.
- Regional safety networks, developed to give members throughout the state training and networking opportunities.

Thanks for helping to make South Dakota a safer place to live!