

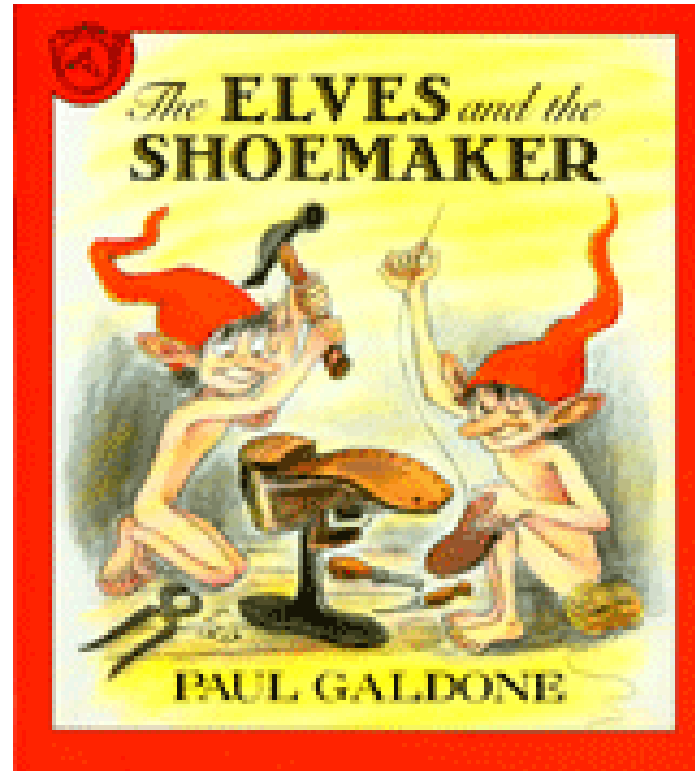
“While You were Sleeping”

Success Stories in Injury Prevention

David Hemenway, PhD

Harvard Injury Control Research Center

The Elves and the Shoemaker

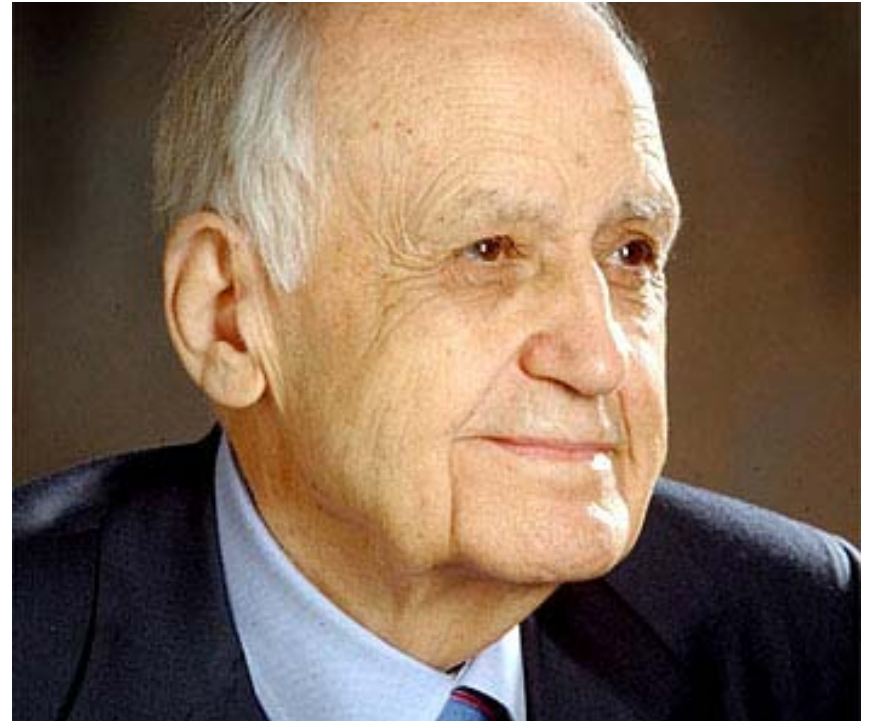


To read all of the success stories, type
“hicrc”
or
“Success stories in injury prevention”
into Google

Public Health
often unrecognized

Maurice Hilleman

(1919-2005)



Public Health Approach

- Prevention (pro-active v reactive)
- Community (v one-at-a-time)
- No fault/blame

Injury & Violence Prevention

Categories

- Road
- Home
- Play
- Work
- Nature
- Violence
- Medicine

Motor Vehicles

Hugh deHaven
(1895-1980)

Dr. William Haddon, Jr

(1926-1985)



Haddon Matrix

	Human	Agent	Environment
Pre-event			
Event			
Post-event			

Haddon Matrix

	Human	Agent	Environment
Pre-event	Graduated Licensing		
Event		Steering Column	Crash Cushion
Post-event			

Graduated Driver Licensing

- Crashes of 16 & 17 year olds fall ~30% (MI, FL, NC, OH, PA, CA)



Collapsible Steering Column

- Risk of driver death in frontal crash falls 12%



Highway Crash Cushions

- Reduce death in crashes by 70%



Home

Kenneth Feldman, Murray Katcher



Tap Water Scalds

- Seattle child scalds fall from 5.5/year in 1970s to 2.3/year in the 1980s



Hair Dryers

- 18 electrocution deaths/yr in the 1980s
- 1 death in 2000



Kids Can't Fly

- Harlem child window falls deaths decrease 96% (from 5/year to 0.3/year)



Andrew McGuire



Fire-Safer Cigarettes

- New York
- California
- Vermont
- Canada



Play

Harvard Football, 1905

In one year, injuries tumble:

Fractures

29 to 5

Dislocations

28 to 3

Concussions

19 to 4



Hockey Eye Injuries

1972:

287 eye injuries

20 blind eyes

2000:

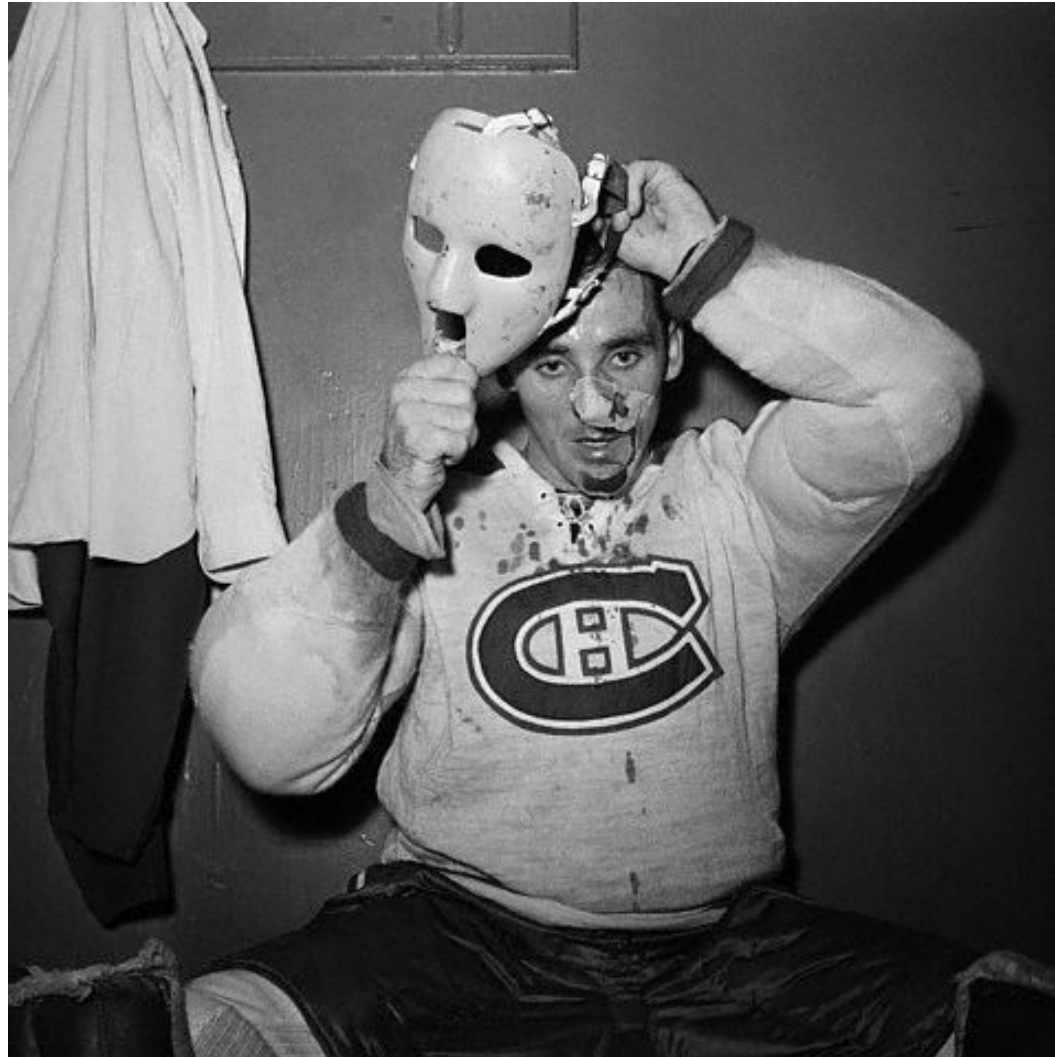
6 eye injuries

1 blind eye



Hockey Goalie Masks

Jacques Plante,
aka “Jake the Snake”



Work

Building the Golden Gate Bridge

Expected deaths 35+

Actual deaths 11



Nature

Icebergs



Hurricanes

Deaths:

1900-30 130/yr

1931-70 70/yr

1971-00 20/yr



Violence

Suicide in the Air Force

(deaths per 100,000)

1994: 16.4

1999: 3.5



DC Metro

Murder, rape,
robbery, assault
75% lower than
in comparable
cities



Medicine

Anesthesia

From early 1980s
to late 1990s,
deaths fell 98%!



Injury and Violence

- Still a major health problem
- Predictable patterns, usually preventable
- Many types of interventions possible

Public Health

- Public health matters
- Individuals can (& have) made a difference
- Change takes longer than hoped
- Neither fame nor fortune

The Elves and the Shoemaker

Public Health never sleeps and
deserves your support.