Safe Communities Overview
Model and Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand
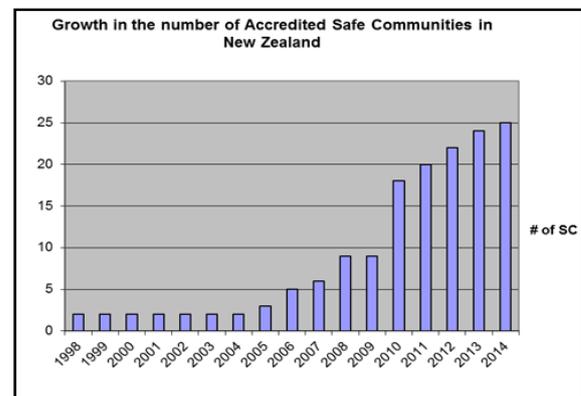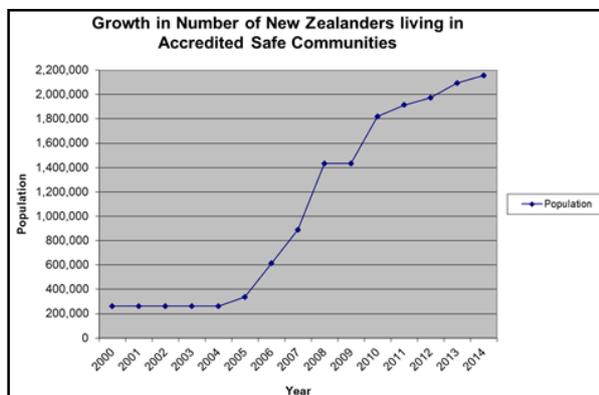
What is a Safe Community?

World Health Organization (WHO) recognises the Safe Communities approach as an important means of delivering evidence-based violence and injury prevention strategies at the local level. Safe Communities is not another project or a programme, it's an integrated way of doing business. The Safe Communities model creates an infrastructure in local communities to increase action by building local partnerships and collaborative relationships. The six criteria for accreditation are:

1. **Leadership & Collaboration:** Demonstration of leadership by coalition or group focused on improving community safety.
2. **Programme Reach:** The range and reach of community safety programmes operating throughout your community/region, including an indication of the extent to which they are based on proven or promising intervention strategies.
3. **Priority Setting:** Demonstration of programmes that target and promote safety for high risk/vulnerable groups and environments.
4. **Data Analysis & Strategic Alignment:** Analysis of available safety (injury, violence, crime and perception) data for your community/region and how they align with established national/state/regional priorities and action plans.
5. **Evaluation:** Outline of expected impacts and how they are being measured or evaluated.
6. **Communication & Networking:** Demonstration of community engagement with relevant sectors of your community/region and ongoing participation in local, national and Pacific Safe Communities networks is required.

There is no 'one size fits all' formula for Safe Communities. Each area creates its own structures, priorities and activities that are appropriate and responsive to local needs and conditions. Local Authorities are usually engaged, along with key stakeholders including Police, ACC, Fire /Service, District Health Boards, local Iwi, and other community agencies.

How many Safe Communities do we have in NZ?

As at November 2015, there are 23 accredited Safe Communities in NZ covering 28 Local Authorities, with a combined population of just over 2.2 million. A further three communities have commenced the Accreditation process. Visit *www.safecommunities.org.nz/sc* for a full list of accredited Safe Communities, and their priorities, initiatives and outcomes.

Safe Communities Foundation NZ (SCFNZ) **Email: contact@scfnz.org**   **Web: www.safecommunities.org.nz**
International Safe Community Support Centre & Accrediting Centre for Pan Pacific Safe Community Accreditation Programme
Safe Communities is a World Health Organization recommended approach
Updated December 2015

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What is SCFNZ's role in this process?

SCFNZ is a not-for-profit national organisation with charitable trust status (#CC10928). SCFNZ is a WHO recommended approach, and an Accrediting Centre of the Pan Pacific Safe Community Network (PPSCN), a regional network of the International Safe Community movement. SCFNZ is funded by ACC, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice and Health Promotion Agency. SCFNZ has both the capacity and capability to provide ongoing services to the local, regional, national and international Safe Communities movement. SCFNZ has adopted both public health and community development approaches to safety promotion, injury and violence prevention since it was established in 2004.

Why an integrated approach to supporting Safe Communities?

Intentional and unintentional injury is the leading cause of death for people between the ages of 1 to 34 years in NZ and has an estimated social and economic costs of approximately $60 billion per annum. Consequently, at the national level, improving community safety is a high priority for many government departments.

The Safe Communities model is aligned with and provides a platform for the achievement of central government objectives including: ACC priorities and programmes; NZ Health Strategy; Ministry of Health and Health Promotion Agency focus on reducing drug and alcohol-related harm; 'Delivering Better Public Services' objectives; Ministry of Justice 'Drivers of Crime' initiative; NZ Police Prevention First Strategy; NZTA 'Safer Journeys 2020'.

The cross-government Injury Prevention Work Plan is an expression of the government's commitment to working with organisations and groups in the wider community to improve the country's injury prevention performance.

What are the benefits of working together?

The core value of Safe Communities is collaboration as, by working together, community safety will be enhanced. Benefits include:

- Increased synergy. By developing collaborative relationships, you are building critical mass and credibility.
- Mapping and linking current initiatives can create a clearer and more comprehensive picture of local risks. By sharing best practice and developing an integrated problem-solving approach to planning, duplications will be reduced.
- An increase in impact and reach. One message many voices, resulting in a continuity of messages and interventions.
- Improvements in perceptions of safety, the creation of vibrant yet safe environments and, ultimately, a reduction in the incidence of injuries/violence/crime/alcohol related harm.

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