Research, Evaluation and Development

Healthy Camps Study and the American Camping Association ...

The Youth University program was invited to participate in Healthy Camps, an Internet-based monitoring study of injuries and illnesses sustained by campers and staff in summer camps from 2006-2011. Participating institutions include the American Camp Association® (ACA); The Association of Camp Nurses (ACN); The Ohio State University, College of Medicine (OSU); and Columbus Children's Research Institute, Center for Injury Research & Policy (CCRI).

This study will track camp illnesses and injuries, monitor trends in camp health, identify risk and protection factors, and track/analyze appropriate intervention strategies. The monitoring system being used in this study was modeled after the successful National Collegiate Athletic Association Injury Surveillance System (NCAA ISS).

We will benefit by receiving annual summative information about our programs injury-illness experience. The information will also include summative comment about the entire data set so that we can see how our camp's experience compares to a national group as a whole. When our program injury-illness profile is established, they will provide suggested interventions and strategies targeted to improve illness/injury rates. These anticipated risk reduction strategies will help our participants and staff stay engaged with our program rather than spending time coping with injury and illness.

