

Play Big: Show Your Commitment to Athlete Health & Safety!

Project Overview

The National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA), the professional membership organization representing 30,000 athletic trainers worldwide, is conducting injury surveillance and outcomes research in the secondary school setting.

Background

More than seven million students in the United States enjoy high school sports. Unfortunately, injury is an inevitable part of sports participation. As athlete involvement has increased, the number and severity of injuries has also increased, creating a public health issue. Of particular concern is the long-term impact these injuries have on athletes, many of whom are still growing, and the burden of these injuries on the health care system – both present day and future.

Athletic trainers, health care professionals skilled in the prevention, recognition, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries and illnesses, are in a unique position to accurately record and track high school injury information. ***There is no other licensed health care professional on-site during practice and game situations to accurately identify and care for injuries and to record the data correctly and in a consistent manner.***

Project Goals

The goals of this project are to:

- Create an ongoing national injury surveillance system that will deliver valuable information regarding trends in high school sports injuries. This information can be used to make sports safer via rule changes, equipment updates and practice modifications.
- Provide an important tool for athletic trainers included in this system to track individual patient care. In many cases this could be life-saving information as it would include pre-participation physical reports, previous injury records, as well as allergy information and other facts specific to the individual athlete.
- Determine the effectiveness of care in the high school athletic setting. This data will benefit the health care community by providing important research for developing innovative techniques and treatment plans.

Partnership Opportunities

NATA has made a financial commitment to this program, but is also seeking funding from physician groups, medical organizations, philanthropic groups, insurance foundations and other organizations. Current opportunities are available for \$2,000 per year, with a three year obligation.

Partner benefits are still being developed, but will include:

- Opportunity to demonstrate your support for youth athletic programs via this tax-deductible contribution.
- Recognition as a partner on materials promoting the study to both internal and external groups. This could include messages directed to government entities (legislative and regulatory), other health care organizations, the general public and NATA members.
- Recognition in NATA communications vehicles as a partner of this program.
- Use of the following verbiage – “Partner of the NATA High School Injury Surveillance & Outcomes System” upon review and approval of usage.
- Annual updates with detailed information regarding financial expenditures and progress of the study.
- Commemorative item recognizing the financial commitment.

Questions

For more information, contact Teresa Foster Welch, NATA Associate Executive Director, 972.532.8841, Teresa@nata.org.