

DIVISION OF ACCIDENT PREVENTION RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM

PART I. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

1. *Objectives*

Research grants are made by the Division of Accident Prevention for the purpose of:

- a. Studying basic causes and conditions associated with or leading to accidental injuries or fatalities in man.
- b. Developing, improving, and evaluating protective measures and means of preventing accidents.
- c. Minimizing the consequences of accidental impacts, poisonings, burns, or other injurious encounters.

Scientific information is sought on all types of accidental injuries occurring on the highway, in the home, at work, at play, or elsewhere.

2. *Operation*

Within the research grants framework, support is provided for research that is *not directed* by the Federal government. A research proposal is initiated and generated by an independent investigator and submitted to the Public Health Service by his institution (occasionally the investigator submits it as an individual). The system for reviewing applications, making awards, and administering the grant projects is the same as that used by the institutes in the National Institutes of Health and by the other Divisions in the Bureau of State Services.

3. *History*

In 1951 the Public Health Service first supported research in accident prevention through the research grants program of its National Institutes of Health. During the period fiscal year 1951 through 1961, 44 projects were supported at a cost of over \$4 million; of this number, 30 projects were concerned with motor vehicle traffic accidents.

Increasing interest in accidents as a public health problem led to the establishment in 1961 of the Division of Accident Prevention in the Bureau of State Services. An integral part of this Division is the Research Grants Branch with budget and administrative responsibility for research grants in the broad areas of accident prevention research. During the period fiscal year 1962 through fiscal year 1965, 68 additional projects were supported at a cost of over 7 million dollars.

The large proportion of projects in the area of traffic accidents is not the result of any deliberate decision of the Public Health Service nor of the reviewers but simply reflects the interest of those who have applied for grants.

4. *Level of operations.* (See table 1.)

Program: Division of Accident Prevention, Research grants program.
Department or agency, and office or bureau: Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; Public Health Service—Bureau of State Services (Community Health).