FY2024 SAVIR Annual Report

October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024

Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research

Advancing Injury and Violence Prevention through Research, Collaboration, and Advocacy



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ashley Brooks Russell, President (April 2023 – March 2024)



Dear SAVIR Members, Partners, and Friends,

As we reflect on 2024, we are proud of the strides SAVIR has made to support and elevate the field of violence and injury prevention research. In a world where injuries remain one of the leading causes of death and disability, our work is more important than ever. This year, we deepened our commitment to equity, expanded our training and mentorship opportunities, strengthened partnerships, and continued to advocate for evidence-informed policy.

We are especially proud of our growing membership, robust annual conference, and the tireless efforts of our committees and task forces. Thank you to our members, volunteers, funders, and partners for your continued belief in our mission.

With gratitude,
Ashley Brooks Russell



ABOUT SAVIR

VISION

The Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR) aims to be the leading scientific organization dedicated to advancing the science of injury and violence prevention, helping build a well-trained pipeline of researchers across industries, and fostering linkages between the science community and the practice and policy communities.

MISSION

The mission of the Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR) is to promote highquality research in violence and injury prevention and to translate and disseminate research findings across the spectrum of science, practice, and policy communities through research, research dissemination, advocacy, and training.

STATED PURPOSES

The leading professional organization fostering excellence in the science of injury and violence prevention (IVP), SAVIR helps members connect with colleagues, learn new skills, share their research, and advance the field. Our work centers on the areas of advocacy, education, and training with specific focus on the following purposes:

1. Advocacy

- Advocating for sustained research funding broadly, including government/public funding and private philanthropic investment
- Educating policymakers on the science of IVP and evidence-based solutions and serving as a resource for evidence-based policy solutions and the importance of funding

2. Education

- Connecting members to achieve better science outcomes
- Providing resources and advancing standards for best practices in research methodology and practice

3. Training and Mentorship

- Cultivating a diverse community of injury and violence prevention professionals, enriching connections with senior colleagues, and helping students and early career researchers and practitioners find their place in the field.
- Cultivating training across the career lifespan to encourage IVP researchers to stay in the field and move into leadership positions taking IVP with them
- Extending intentional outreach aimed at drawing a diversity of people and fresh perspectives to the field
- Training the interdisciplinary research workforce of the future.

HISTORY



SAVIR was incorporated in Maryland as a 501c(3) in 1997, emerging from an organization, the National Association of Injury Control Research Centers (NAICRC). NAICRC had been formed several years earlier by the directors of the Injury Control Research Centers funded at that time by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at CDC. In creating SAVIR, the group aimed to increase engagement of all injury researchers, whether they were affiliated with a CDC-funded center or not. The organizational also aimed to enhance the research focus within the field and strengthen collaboration with its sister organization for practitioners, Safe States Alliance. Safe States had recently changed its name from State and Territorial Injury Prevention Association (STIPDA).

Together, the two organizations had collaborated on the National Training Initiative that developed core competencies for the field, as well as the PREVENT (Preventing Violence through Education, Networking, and Technical Assistance) Program, operated by the University of North Carolina Injury Prevention Research Center from 2002-2009.

As SAVIR has grown and matured, the Board expanded to include new seats, and formed a strong cadre of committees that work to accomplish the mission of the organization. Over the years, SAVIR has used varied management structures including part-time administrators and contracting with a management company. In 2022, the organization shifted to hiring an Executive Director and professional staff, to further growth. In addition, the organization has a longstanding relationship with the international journal, Injury Prevention as the official journal of SAVIR.

STRATEGIC GOALS



SAVIR's mission is to promote high quality research in violence and injury prevention and to translate and disseminate research findings across the spectrum of the science, practice, and policy communities.

SAVIR helps members connect with colleagues, learn new skills, share their research, and advance the field. Our work centers on the areas of advocacy, education, and training.

In Fiscal Years 2025-2029, we will execute our mission and purpose through these strategic goals:



GOAL 1. Position SAVIR as the leading scientific organization dedicated to advancing the science of injury and violence prevention.



GOAL 2. Support the long-term sustainability and growth of SAVIR.



GOAL 3. Advance the science of injury and violence prevention and control.



GOAL 4. Prepare and support the next generation of injury and violence researchers.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SAVIR is guided by a dedicated Executive Committee—comprising the President, President-Elect, Past President, and Treasurer—and a Board of Directors representing diverse expertise across the injury and violence prevention field. The Board includes 14 members serving overlapping one- to three-year terms, as outlined in SAVIR's bylaws, ensuring continuity and shared leadership. SAVIR's staff provides strong administrative and operational support. Our standing committees play a vital role in advancing the organization's mission through work focused on membership, policy, education, communication, and annual conference planning. Below is a breakdown of SAVIR's leadership team for FY 2024:



Name	Title	Affiliation	Term
Ashley Brooks-Russell, PhD, MPH	President of the Board	University of Colorado, CU Anschutz	2023–2026
Cassandra Crifasi, PhD, MPH	President-Elect	Johns Hopkins University	2024–2027
Laura Schwab-Reese, MA, PhD	Past-President	Purdue University	2022–2025
Jason Goldstick, PhD	Treasurer	University of Michigan	2024–2027
Anthony R. Carlini, MS	Board Member	Johns Hopkins University	2024-2027
Sara Solomon, MPH, RD	Board Member	University of Pennsylvania	2023–2026
Shannon Guillot-Wright, PhD	Board Member	University of Texas	2023–2025
Nichole Michaels, PhD, MPH	Board Member	Ohio State University	2024–2027
Shabbar Ranapurwala, MPH, PhD, BHMS	Board Member	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	2022–2025
Rebecca Naumann, DrPH, MSc	Board Member	Appalachian College of Pharmacy	2023–2026
Terri deRoon-Cassini, PhD, MS	Council of Centers	Medical College of Wisconsin	2024–2026
Chris Morrison, PhD, MPH	Member at Large, Conference Host Representative	Columbia University	2024–2025
Hannah Rochford, PhD, MPH	Transitional Member	Texas A&M University	2024–2025
Nicole Asa, MPH	Student Member	University of Washington	2024–2025



Dr. Christen Rexing, PhD, MPH, Executive Director



Christen provides strategic leadership for SAVIR, guiding organizational growth, partnerships, and advocacy for evidence-based injury and violence prevention.

With over 15 years of experience in research and policy, she advances SAVIR's mission by fostering collaboration and supporting the next generation of prevention scientists.

Sara Brandspigel, MPH, Managing Director



Sara oversees SAVIR's operations, communications, and membership management, ensuring the organization runs efficiently and effectively. In 2024, she led the launch of SAVIR's new website and supported key initiatives that enhanced visibility and connection across the injury and violence prevention community.

COMMITTEES

Advocacy and Policy Committee

The Advocacy and Policy Committee works to actively promote the field of injury control research and to disseminate evidence that informs public health policy and practice. The committee focuses on advancing research translation, supporting advocacy efforts, and elevating the visibility of injury and violence prevention science across sectors.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee enhances SAVIR's organizational impact by streamlining communication efforts and promoting the dissemination of cutting-edge injury and violence prevention research. Through social media, newsletters, and other communication channels, the committee shares timely announcements, encourages scholarly collaboration, supports membership growth, and provides resources to researchers, practitioners, and policymakers.

Conference and Program Committee

The Conference and Program Committee oversees planning and coordination of the annual SAVIR conference. This includes developing the program structure, identifying themes and speakers, and ensuring that the event fosters meaningful knowledge exchange and professional development opportunities for attendees.

Council of Centers

The Council of Centers represents members affiliated with research centers and provides a platform for collaboration, shared learning, and professional enrichment. Its goals include:

- Enhancing opportunities for regional, national, and global collaboration.
- Sharing best practices to bridge research and practice.
- Expanding the number and funding of injury research centers.
- Collaborating with other SAVIR committees to advance shared objectives.
- Supporting centers in addressing challenges and increasing their effectiveness.

COMMITTEES (continued)

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee provides organizational oversight and strategic direction for SAVIR. Composed of elected officers, this committee ensures alignment between the organization's goals, operations, and governance.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee focuses on growing and sustaining SAVIR's membership base by fostering an inclusive community of professionals and researchers across diverse disciplines engaged in injury and violence prevention and intervention.

Student and Early Career Professionals Committee

The Student and Early Career Professionals Committee amplifies the voices of emerging researchers within SAVIR. It provides opportunities for mentorship, education, networking, and professional growth, supporting students and early career professionals who share an interest in injury and violence prevention research.

Science and Research Committee

The Science and Research Committee stimulates collaboration and advances SAVIR's scientific priorities. It oversees the development of the scientific program at the annual meeting, reviews abstracts, and recommends research and policy priorities. The committee also advises public and federal agencies on issues related to injury and violence control, helping shape the broader research agenda.

Training and Infrastructure Committee

The Training and Infrastructure Committee supports the professional and academic development of SAVIR members. It addresses training needs for current and future researchers and practitioners in the fields of violence and injury prevention, helping to strengthen the capacity of the field through skill-building and knowledge exchange.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

At a Glance

- April 2024: 2024 Annual Conference theme, "Advancing Injury Prevention Through Community-Engaged Research," helped forge new research-community partnerships.
- September 2024: SAVIR launches a new job board and opens calls for abstracts for 2025 conference and lightning plenaries.
- October 2024: Editorial call for papers on violence as a public health issue, key federal actions on gun violence prevention announced.
- November 2024: Jessie Singer named 2025 conference keynote; student scholarship campaign doubled its match.



2024 HIGHLIGHTS



Research & Innovation

 Hosted 436 participants and 260 scientific presentations at the 2024 SAVIR Annual Conference in Chapel Hill, NC, with the theme "Advancing Injury Prevention Through Community-Engaged Research."

Membership & Community

- Grew to over 370 members across academic, public health, clinical, and advocacy settings.
- Expanded the Mentoring Program, matching early-career researchers with seasoned mentors.
- Hosted quarterly Grand Rounds webinars attended by hundreds of participants.

Policy & Advocacy

- Participated in Capitol Hill Days and briefed congressional staff on injury prevention funding.
- Supported national campaigns on injury and violence prevention.
- Engaged with the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development's strategic plan to reduce gun violence, including support for new federal initiatives and task forces announced by the White House.

Training & Workforce Development

- Student Scholarship Campaign: A member challenged the SAVIR membership to raise \$1,000 to support early-career researchers.
- SAVIR launched a new web-based student and early career opportunities board in partnership with Safe States Alliance, supporting career development in injury and violence prevention research.

Research Practice & Community Engagement

- SAVIR launched a centralized job board listing positions in injury and violence research to connect members with career opportunities.
- SAVIR deepened ties with partner organizations such as Safe States Alliance and Safe Kids Worldwide, while participating in major national conferences addressing firearm injuries and violence prevention.

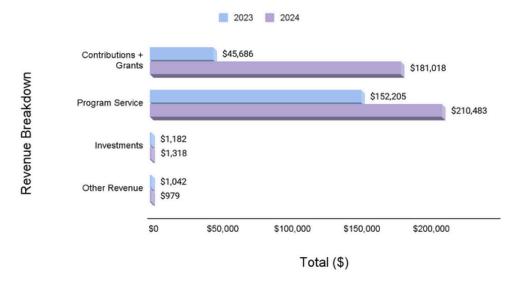
FINANCIAL SUMMARY



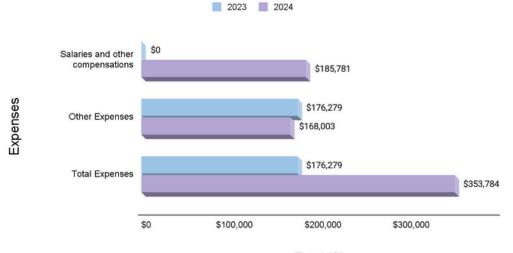


Revenue	Amount	Expenses	Amount
Membership Dues & Conference Revenue	\$210,483	Personnel	\$185,781
Grants & Sponsorships	\$181,018	Other Expenses	\$168,003
Investment Income	\$1,318		
Total Revenue	\$393,798	Total Expenses	\$353,784

SAVIR Revenues - 2023 vs 2024



SAVIR Expenses - 2023 vs 2024



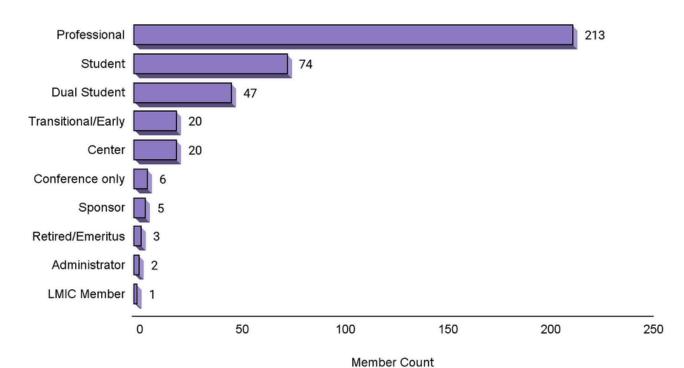
Total (\$)

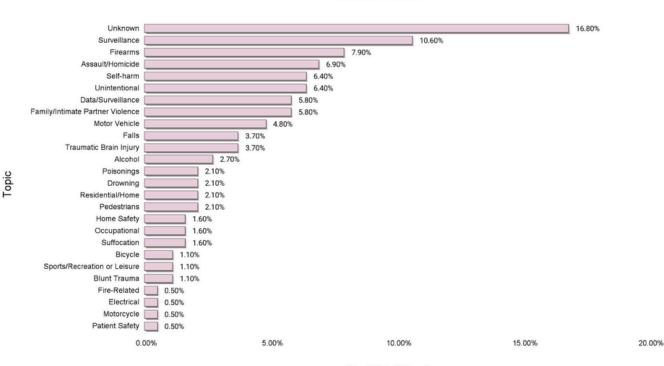
MEMBERSHIP DATA



As of July 2024, SAVIR had 383 paid members.

Member Types and Areas of Expertise





% of Total Members

CONFERENCE IMPACT

The 2024 Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR) Annual Conference was held April 15–17 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and hosted by the University of North Carolina's Injury Prevention Research Center. Centered on the theme "Advancing Injury Prevention Through Community-Engaged Research," the conference brought together researchers, practitioners, and community partners to discuss innovative strategies for preventing injury and violence through equitable, collaborative approaches.



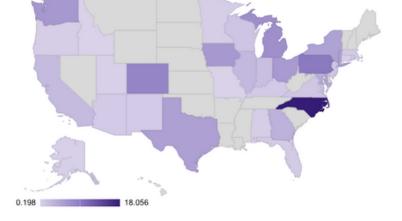
Participants

A total of **400 people** participated in the conference.



400 300 225 225 Presenters Session Leaders Symposium instructors or chairs

Geographic Distribution of Participants by State





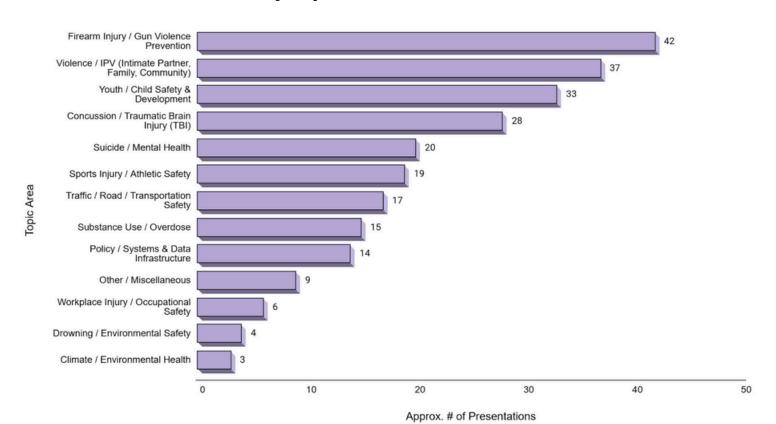
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

The Conference offered a dynamic program of over **40 sessions**, including short courses, technical workshops, oral presentations, and plenary events. Attendees also participated in networking breaks, committee meetings, and social gatherings that fostered collaboration across disciplines and career stages.

TOPICS

The 227 presentations reflected a wide range of injury and violence prevention research. Major themes included firearm injury prevention, interpersonal and community violence, youth and child safety, and concussion and traumatic brain injury. Additional topics addressed suicide and mental health, substance use and overdose, traffic safety, and occupational injuries. Emerging areas such as policy evaluation, data systems, and climate-related injury risks highlight the field's commitment to innovation, equity, and community engagement.

Number of Presentations by Topic Area



CONFERENCE AWARDS



This year, SAVIR awards were presented to honor excellence across categories—from Board of Directors recognition to presentation achievements. Our award recipients are featured below.



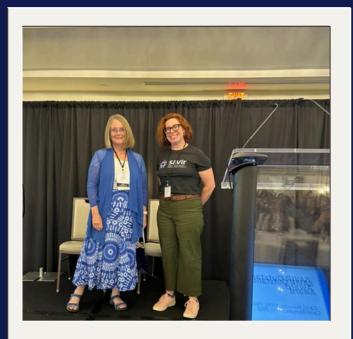
Erin Shore, MPH
Brooks Webb Student Paper Award



Molly Merrill Francis, PhD, MPH
Outstanding Science Presentation Award



Lauren Malthaner, PhD, MPH
Student or Early Career Outstanding
Science Presentation Award



Carol Runyan, PhD, MPH
Outstanding Service Award

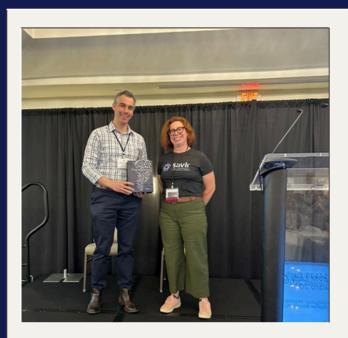
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Frederick P. Rivara, MD, MPH
SAVIR Excellence in Violence or Injury
Prevention Science 2024



Christopher Morrison, PhD, MPH SAVIR Early Career Excellence Award 2024



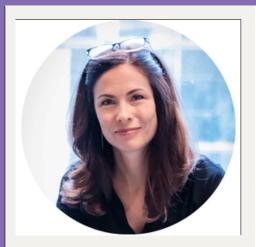
Stephen Teret, JD, MPH SAVIR President's Award 2024

BOARD MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

SAVIR also recognized the following individuals as outgoing board members for their service on the Board of Directors:



Henry Xiang, PhD, MPH, MD



Kathleen Carlson, PHD



Sara Jacoby, PhD, MPH, MSN, FAAN







WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

Throughout the year, SAVIR continued to advance injury and violence prevention (IVP) through a series of workshops and educational events that fostered collaboration, innovation, and strategic dialogue across the field. Below is a summary of this year's featured sessions:



Live Webcast – "The Pediatric National Fatality Review–Case Reporting System (NFR-CRS)"

This webcast introduced the Pediatric NFR-CRS, a groundbreaking data collection tool that enables fatality review teams to capture standardized information on child deaths and associated social determinants.

Presenters demonstrated how these data can uncover patterns in injury and violence, including firearm injury, poisoning, overdose, and deaths among LGBTQ+ youth. The session emphasized how longitudinal data analysis can inform more effective and equitable prevention strategies across communities.

Innovations in Injury and Violence
Prevention Teaching and
Translation

This session focused on new approaches to teaching, training, and translating IVP research into real-world practice. It also highlighted programs and evidence-based methods for improving educational outreach and the dissemination of prevention science across disciplines.

1 Injury and Violence Prevention Grand Rounds (co-hosted with Safe States Alliance) – "Better Together: Enhancing Civilian-Military Collaboration for Preventing Suicide, Violence, and Injury"

> This interactive panel explored opportunities for collaboration between civilian and military sectors in suicide, violence, and injury prevention. Moderated by Dr. Emmy Betz, the discussion provided insight into the military public health infrastructure, policy development, and data systems. Speakers shared successful examples of militarycivilian partnerships in suicide prevention and discussed strategies to extend these lessons to broader IVP contexts. The session also highlighted career pathways for students and early-career professionals interested in military-related prevention work.

IMPACT STORIES FROM MEMBERS



"My favorite aspect of participating in SAVIR as a student is the opportunity to connect with peers from across the country who share my passions and motivations. I am the only student in my department who is focused on firearm injury prevention so my involvement with SAVIR has truly allowed me to connect and build relationships with others engaged in the field."

- Mike Henson-Garcia, MPH, PhD

I joined SAVIR this year! I was able to present my research with the Johns Hopkins University Center for Gun Violence Solutions at the conference in April, which was an amazing experience. I love how passionate the members are about the field, and the reverence they have for the communities most impacted. I believe fostering intentional relationships with those that are at the core of an issue is crucial. I witnessed conference attendees do the work of unpacking traditional transactional research-based relationships and striving for something more equitable in real time, which was refreshing.



- Eva Maria Lewis, BA



IMPACT STORIES FROM MEMBERS



I have been a member since about 2013. My first SAVIR conference was in Baltimore, about a mile from where I was living at the time. I remember being very nervous because it was my first oral presentation at a scientific meeting, but the audience was so supportive, and the conference is something I have looked forward to ever since!

- Elise Omaki, MHS

I have been a member of SAVIR since 2019. My favorite part of SAVIR is the ability to connect and network with like-minded individuals who are working hard to better understand the injury problem and how we can best tackle the issues using the data to inform our work. The conferences are outstanding and have created opportunities for collaborations with many organizations including the Injury Control Research Centers.



- DiLenny Roca, MPH, MS



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS & SUPPORTERS

This year, SAVIR strengthened its network through new partnerships and collaborations with organizations committed to advancing injury and violence prevention. We extend our sincere gratitude to our sponsors, donors, and supporters whose contributions make our programs, research initiatives, and annual conference possible. Your partnership helps sustain our mission to build a safer, healthier future for all communities.





RESEARCH





JHCIRP

GILLINGS SCHOOL OF GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH









Bloomberg American Health Initiative



