Strengthening Community Resilience After Natural Disasters:

Applying the Safe Community Strategy

- a presentation to commemorate the late **Professor Leif Svanström, 1943-2023**

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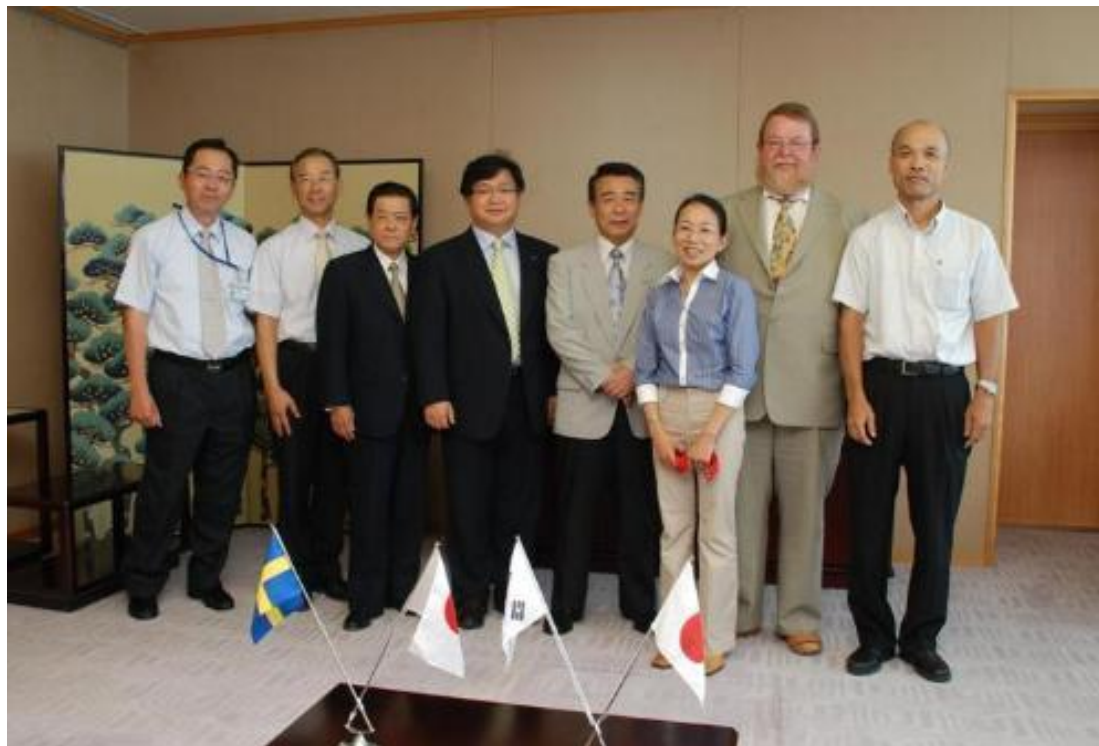Professor Emeritus

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平成19年9月21日及び22日、

亀岡市は WHO(世界保健機関）セーフコミュニティ認証のための
現地審査を受けました。

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Topics

✓ **A Safe Community**

✓ **How can Safe Community Strategies Strengthen Resilience?**

Safe Communities

A "Safe Community" can be a: Municipality; a County; a City or a District of a City working with safety promotion, Injury-, Violence- and Suicide- prevention and prevention of the consequences (human injuries) related to Natural Disaster, covering all age groups, gender and areas and is a part of an **international network of accredited programs**.

Falköping, Sweden

– designated as the 1st Safe Community

– by the WHO collaborating Center on Community Safety Promotion

– at Karolinska Institutet

The Falköping model

– late 1970 in Sweden

- A community intervention
  - Inter-sectoral collaboration.

  - Inclusive approach
    - all ages
    - both sex
    - all environments
    - all situations

  - Bottom-up strategy in a consensus building model

Lessons from the Falköping Model

- ## Eight steps **(= Public Health Approach)**

  1. Epidemiologic mapping (Injury Surveillance)

  2. Identification of risk groups/ - environment

  3. Forming multidisciplinary working and reference groups

  4. Joint planning of action program

  5. Implementation

  6. Evaluation

  7. Modification

  8. Transfer of experience

Lessons from the Falköping Model

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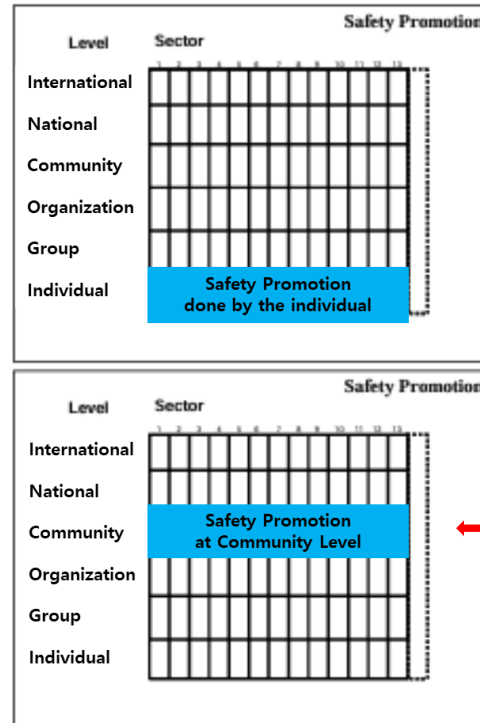
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Lessons from the Falköping Model

- **Public Health Approach**

individual level

community level

The Public health approach shifts the focus
from individual behavior
to population-level change and **systematic risk reduction of environment**.

The Falköping model

– late 1970 in Sweden

- Three years after (- Leif Svanström, 1986)

  - Total rate of injuries – decreased by 23%

    - Home injuries by 27%

    - Occupational injuries by 28%

    - Traffic injuries by 28%

- Followed by other municipalities in Sweden in the beginning of 1980's

Founder of the International Safe Community Movement

Professor Emeritus

Department of Public Health

Karolinska Institute

Stockholm, Sweden

the late Professor Leif Svanström, M.D., Ph.D.
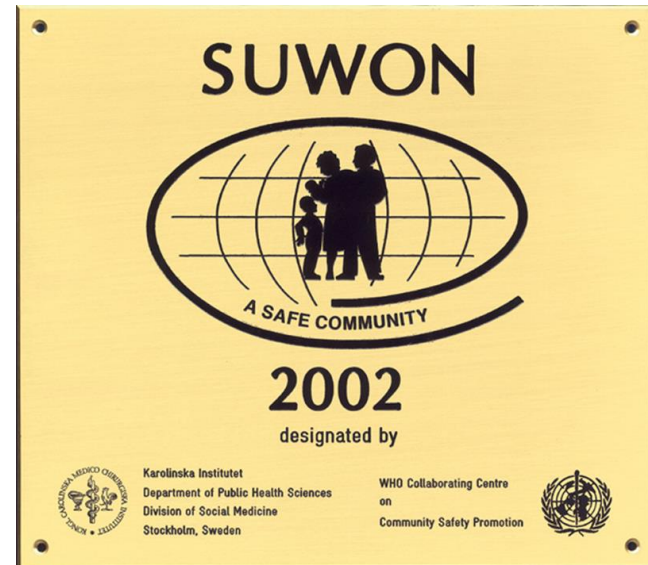**1943 - 2023**

Leif championed a number of important changes in thinking

1. Investigate the causes of injury, not just the incidence of injury

2. Target the systemic causes of injury, not just behavior

3. Target whole populations, not just individuals

4. Promote the positive wholistic social phenomenon of health, safety and wellbeing, not just the physical phenomenon of injury prevention

5. Real world application, rather than controlled experimental studies

6. Treat the target community as partners, not just subjects

Reykjavik, Island
September, 1999

Program launched in 1999
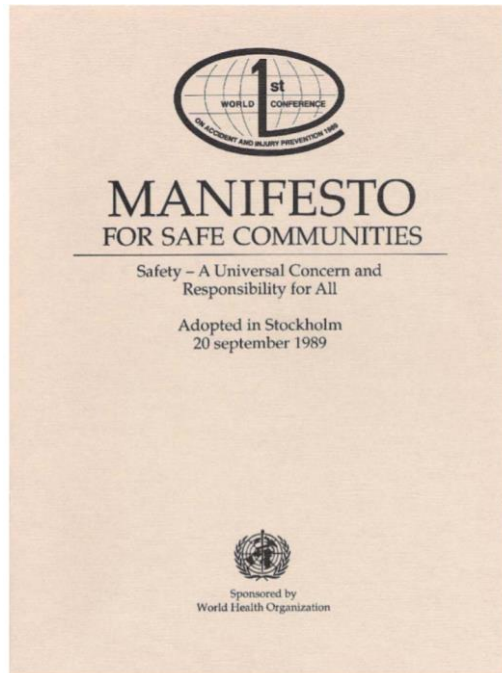
The 1st Safe Community in Asian Region

The 1st Asian Conference on Safe Communities

Suwon, Korea, 2002

Stockholm, Sweden
August, 2019

2024 W.H.O. World Conference
New Deli, India

Manifest for Safe Communities

W.H.O. recognizes Safe Communities as an important mechanism for the ***coordinated implementation of evidence-based action*** for the prevention of violence and injuries by local governments and communities.

- The 1st World Conference on Accident and Injury Prevention

Stockholm, Sweden, 1989

Manifesto for Safe Communities :
- the ground pillars

- **All human beings have an equal right to health and safety**

- Injury prevention requires **coordinated action by many groups**

- **Health sector** have a crucial role in collecting information on injured people, injury patterns, causes of injuries and hazard situations

- Local programs must include **all citizens** and focus on **the most vulnerable groups**

- **Evaluation** both of the process and outcome of a safety promotion program is important

- An **international development work for safe communities** is necessary.

The International Safe Communities Network Designated Members

441 Safe Communities in **33** countries

- **March 2025**

Norway
Alvdal
Bergen
Fredrikstad
Harstad
Høyanger
Klepp
Kvam
Larvik
Nøtterøy
Os
Rakkestad
Sogn & Fjordane
Re
Sande
Ski
Spydeberg
Stovner
Trondheim
Vågå
Ardal

Sweden
Borås
Falköping
Falun
Lidköping
Ludvika
Mariestad
Motala
Nacka
Skövde
Smedjebacken
Staffanstorp
Tjörn
Töreboda
Uddevalla

Denmark
Horsens

England
Chelmsford

Israel
Raanana

South Africa
Eldorado Park
Broadlands Park

Finland
Hyvinkää

Estonia
Lääne
Rapla
Tallinn
Viljandimaa

Germany
Land Brandenburg
Delmenhorst

Austria
Vorarlberg

Poland
Tarnowskie Góry

Serbia
Backi Petrovac
Novi Sad

Cze...
Chru...
Kron...
Třeb...

Cro...
Vara...

Bos...
Konjic
Banja Luka

Turkey
Kepez

Iran
Abadeh
Andisheh
Arsanjan
Bardaskan
Eghlid
Fairman
Farashband
Kashmar
Kalilabad
Khorrambid
Neyriz
Tehran Metropolitan
Tehran Districts: 1-22

China
Anzhen
Badaguan
Balizhuang
Bansongyuan
Changzheng
Da'nan
Datun
Desheng
Donghuamen
Dongzhimen
Fangsong
Financial Sub-d...
Futian
Honey Lake
Hongqiao
Huaihai
Huaiyin
Huamu
...
Lijia
Lu'an
Lujiazui
Luwan
Maizidian
Nanjingdonglu
Panjiayuan
Qianjiaying
Renminlu
Ruijin
Sanlitun
Sipinglu
Shakekou District
Shengang
Shuangjing
Tuanjiehu
Wangjing
Wanlian
Wujiaochang
Wuliqiao
Wuxi Taihu
Xichang'anjie
Yanjixincun

China
Yayuncun
Yinhang
Youth Park
Yuetan
Zhangjiang
Zhanlanlu
Zhanshan
Zhongshan Park
Zhongshan District
Zuojiazhuang
Zhuhailu
Yanjixincun
Xiagang
Xiangheyuan
Xiaoguan
Xigang
Xinggong
Xinghaiwan
Xinjiekou
Xinjiangwancheng
...
...
Neihu
Shihkang
Shoufeng
Sioufong
Zhongzheng
Zuoying
Jinhwa
Suao
Toucheng
Wenshan
Nangang
Datong
Xingyi
(Hong Kong)
Kwai Tsing
Sai Kung
Sham Shui Po
Southern District
Tai Po
Tuen Mun
Tung Chung
Tsuen Wan
Wong Tai Sin

Vietnam
Cam Thuy
Da Trach
Dong Tien
Duc Chinh
Hoa Long
Lang Co
Loc Son
Thanh Binh
Truong Lac
Xuan Dinh

Thailand
Wang Sai Phun
Tambon Talad Kreab
Muang Nan

Japan
Atsugi
Kameoka

South Korea
Busan
Changwon
Cheonan
Gangbuk
Gwacheon
Jeju
Samcheok
Songpa

Australia
Cairns
Casey
Hume City
Latrobe
Mackay
Mawson Lakes
Melbourne
Mount Isa
Noarlunga
Northcott
Palmerston
Springfield Lakes
Townsville
Varsity Lakes
Woodlands

New Zealand
Christchurch
North Shore
Palmerston North
Porirua
Rotorua
Safer West
Tairawhiti
Taupo
Tauranga
Waimakariri
Wairarapa
Waitaki
Wanganui
Wellington
Whangarei

Canada
Brampton
Brockville
Calgary
Wood Buffalo
Rainy River
Sault Ste. Marie

USA
Anchorage
Arlington Heights
Beatrice
Dallas
Doña Ana County
Emory University
Erie County
Fort Worth
Hagerstown
Hammond
Itasca
Lycoming County
Madison, Dane County
Madison County
Murray State University
New Lenox
Norfolk
Omaha
Nebraska Panhandle
Shawnee
Springfield
Sullivan County
University S. California

México
Cuajimalpa de Morelos
Puebla
State of Chiapas
Tuxtla Gutiérrez
Cuautitlán Izcalli

Peru
Bellavista
Jesús María
Miraflores
Pueblo Libre
San Borja

Chile
Peñaflor

Indicators for accreditation - an International SC

- **INDICATOR 1: Governance** – cross-sectoral approach

- **INDICATOR 2: Surveillance** – local injury data

- **INDICATOR 3: Comprehensive Programs** – all genders, ages, environments and situations

- **INDICATOR 4: Vulnerable Groups** – high-risk groups and environments

- **INDICATOR 5: Evaluation** – processes and effects based on the evidence

- **INDICATOR 6: Networking** – sharing experience

Accredited Certifiers
for the International Safe Community Certifying Center

Lidkoping, Sweden 2014

Topics

✓ A Safe Community

✓ How can Safe Community Strategies Strengthen Resilience?

What is Community resilience?

Community resilience is the ability of a community to **withstand, adapt to, and recover from adverse events** such as natural disasters, economic shocks, public health crises, or other social disruptions.

It involves more than just surviving a disaster—it's about bouncing back **stronger and better prepared** for future challenges.

What is Community resilience?

A resilient community can:

- ✓ **Anticipate risks** and reduce vulnerabilities (e.g., through planning and infrastructure).

- ✓ **Respond effectively** during a crisis (e.g., through coordinated emergency services and citizen action).

- ✓ **Recover quickly** and rebuild in a way that reduces future risks.

- ✓ **Adapt and transform** in response to changing conditions (e.g., climate change, demographic shifts).

What is Community resilience?

Key elements of community resilience include:

✓ **Strong social networks and trust** among residents.

✓ **Prepared and engaged local leadership.**

✓ **Access to resources** (information, funding, skills).

✓ **Effective communication systems.**

✓ **Inclusive planning** that involves all community members.

Why does the Safe Community Approach Matter?

6 indicators

Governance

Evidence based/surveillance

Comprehensiveness

Inclusive

Sustainability/evaluation and feedback

Networking, nationally and globally

Directly applicable to building community resilience after disasters.

Accreditation as a Safe Community

can be a strong motivation to communities

by connecting them to **a network**

where they can **learn, share, and grow together**.

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Thank you very much!

"Working together to make our world safer and resilient".