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**CONTACT:**

Jamila Porter/STIPDA  
770-690-9000

**Giving Thanks: November 23 Honors Injury and Violence Prevention Public Health Heroes**  
***Thanking Our All Too Often Unsung Public Health Heroes***

Atlanta, November 23, 2009 —As Thanksgiving approaches, the State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association (STIPDA) joined Research!America and leading U.S. public health organizations in asking Americans to give special thanks to their federal, state and local "public health heroes" who protect the nation's health throughout the year. These everyday heroes include our epidemiologists, health educators, coalition building, and other injury and violence prevention professionals. November 23 marks the nation's fifth annual Public Health Thank You Day.

"During this time of H1N1 and seasonal flu, we couldn't have a better reminder of why our public health professionals are so important to our day-to-day health and safety. Let's take a moment during this busy time of year and thank our nation's public health professionals who work to keep us safe from the flu and also from injury, chronic illness and bioterrorism" said Mary Woolley, president and CEO of Research!America. "Use this Monday before Thanksgiving as an opportunity to thank these everyday heroes."

Joining Research!America are STIPDA, the American Public Health Association, Association of Schools of Public Health, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, National Association of County & City Health Officials and the National Alliance for Hispanic Health.

"Public health professionals work for us year-round to prevent injuries, illnesses and promote good health and safety," said Amber Williams, Executive Director of STIPDA. "We owe our gratitude to those who devote their lives in local, state and federal governments to making the world a safe and healthier place."

According to a new Research!America poll, 72% of Americans say it is very important to include strategies to [prevent disease and promote wellness in health reform](#). And 75% of Americans favor [increasing federal funding for state and local health departments and hospitals nationwide](#).

"As Americans watch the global spread of infectious diseases like H1N1, we see the value of investment in public health infrastructure more than ever," Woolley continued. "Federal agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health fund research that helps us live longer, healthier, more productive lives. That is why Congress and the public must continue to support their vital work."

Organizations wishing to celebrate Public Health Thank You Day can find downloadable Web banners and ads, communication tools, poll findings and a PHTY Day Facebook group at [www.publichealththankyouday.org](http://www.publichealththankyouday.org).

**About STIPDA**

The State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association (STIPDA) is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) organization of professionals committed to strengthening the ability of state, territorial, and local health departments to reduce death and disability associated with injury and violence.

**About Research!America**

Research!America is the nation's largest not-for-profit public education and advocacy alliance working to make research to improve health a higher national priority. Founded in 1989, it is supported by 500 member organizations, which represent more than 125 million Americans. For more information, visit [www.researchamerica.org](http://www.researchamerica.org).

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