The Northwest Center for Public Health Practice acknowledges the land we occupy today as the traditional home of the Tulalip, Muckleshoot, Duwamish and Suquamish tribal nations. Without them we would not have access to this working, teaching and learning environment. We humbly take the opportunity to thank the original caretakers of this land who are still here.

Question for the Viewers

Describe your level of knowledge or experience with violence and injury prevention policy:

A. A lot
B. Some
C. Little
D. None
Violence and Injury Prevention Policy Overview

Federal, State and Local Policies

Understanding Policy Processes

Questions to Consider

Methodology

- Does VIP/IVP traditionally combine all causes of death into one category?
- What are advantages of combined information for education of decision makers?

Equity

- Firearm-related injury data show stark inequities based on race, gender, age, geography, and socioeconomic class.
- Where does policy fit in the landscape of solutions?
Leading Causes of Death for Washington Residents (2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause of Death</th>
<th>Age-Adjusted Rate per 100,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malignant Neoplasms</td>
<td>135.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the Heart</td>
<td>131.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence &amp; Injuries (Intentional &amp; Unintentional)</td>
<td>71.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alzheimer’s Disease</td>
<td>41.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19</td>
<td>35.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebrovascular Diseases</td>
<td>33.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease</td>
<td>28.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>22.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Liver Disease</td>
<td>14.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Spectrum of Prevention

- Influencing Policy & Legislation
- Changing Organizational Practices
- Fostering Coalitions & Networks
- Educating Providers
- Promoting Community Education
- Strengthening Individual Knowledge & Skills

Local Health Department Involvement in Policy

- Local and state boards of health
- Local city and county ordinance development
- Local entity policy development (school district)
- State legislation
- Federal legislation
Sign on Letters: Gun Violence Prevention Funding

Letter to Chairman Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chair DeLauro, and Ranking Member Granger:

As you consider appropriations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, the undersigned national, state, and local medical, public health, and research organizations write to ask you to provide $25 million for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and $25 million for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to conduct public health research into firearm morbidity and mortality prevention.

Safe States Alliance: Funding Priorities

Priority areas:
- Expanding and strengthening state prevention capacity
- Preventing unintentional injuries
  - Motor vehicle related
  - Older adult falls
  - Prescription opioid
  - Traumatic brain injuries (TBI)
Question for the Viewers

How would you assess the following statement?
"Policy is an effective tool for reducing injury and violence."

A. Agree
B. Disagree
C. I'm not sure

Federal, State, and Local Policies

Federal, State, and Local Policies

HB1045: Speed Limit Bill, 2013

Allows Washington cities to more easily reduce speed limits on non-arterial roads
Reducing Child Injury Deaths in King County

Child injury deaths dropped by 62% from 2000 – 2009
- 193 children’s lives saved over last decade thanks to prevention policies, law enforcement, and education
- Traffic-related child deaths declined from 35 in 2000 to 11 in 2009
- The number of children who drowned has also been steadily declining; five children drowned in 2000 and only one in 2009
- Improvements surpassed a national trend of fewer child injury deaths
- CDC recently reported that child deaths from injuries nationally declined 29% from 2000 to 2009

Fatality Review Data Informs Policy Work

- Child Mortality Review
- Maternal Mortality Review
- Suicide and Overdose Reviews
- Domestic Violence Fatality Review
- Pedestrian Fatality Review

Boating Under the Influence Law, 2016

Made standards for boating under the influence (BUI) similar to those for driving under the influence (DUI)
Post Initiative 1491 Press Event

Establishes Extreme Risk Protection Orders in Washington

State-level Gun Policy in Washington

- **Longtime legislative gridlock**
  - In November 2017, with the election of Manka Dhingra in District 45, the state Senate became majority-Democrat. Gun violence prevention became a policy priority.

- **2017 – 2020**: Introduction of many new state bills focusing on:
  - Suicide prevention
  - Background checks
  - Statewide initiative implementation
  - Limiting access to the most dangerous firearms, and other aspects of firearm injury prevention

Firearm-related Policies Passed in 2020-21

- **SB 6289**: Created Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention (1st in USA), tasked with gathering data, supporting victims of gun violence, and administrating grant programs to community violence intervention groups.
- **SB 5454**: Prohibits guns in childcare and early learning facilities.
- **HB 2687**: Centralizes Washington's background check system, which will ease the burden on law enforcement and keep guns out of the wrong hands.
- **HB 2555**: Closes a background check loophole to ensure checks may be performed on firearm components.
- **HB 2622**: Incorporates best practices and closes loopholes to give courts, prosecutors, and law enforcement the ability to better enforce firearm surrender orders.
- **SB 5258**: Prohibits open carry of firearms and other weapons at permitted demonstrations and on parts of the Capitol grounds.
- **SB 5299**: Establishes and requires data collection and dissemination on police use of force.
Firearm-related Policies Passed in 2022

- HB 1630: Restricting carrying of weapons, including firearms, at school board and other government meetings and at ballot-counting facilities
- HB 1705: Electrodes untraceable firearms ("ghost guns")
- HB 1914: Prohibits active shooter scenario drills in schools
- HB 5070:Places restrictions on high-capacity magazines

Understanding Policy Processes

If the SME, an external partner, or the Executive’s Office requests testimony in a hearing on the bill, the SME writes it and the appropriate person delivers it.

The bill review is used to determine the County’s position on the bill, which is passed on to the policy team.

Public Health’s Legislative Process

Bills are sent to Public Health by the Executive’s Office.

SMEs write a bill review and send it back to the policy team.

If the SME, an external partner, or the Executive’s Office requests testimony in a hearing on the bill, the SME writes it and the appropriate person delivers it.

Public Health’s policy team screens the bill for relevance and assigns them to Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) with knowledge of the content.

The bill review is used to determine the County’s position on the bill, which is passed on to the policy team.
Impacts on priority populations

King County is committed to equity leading with race. By considering populations most vulnerable to health disparities, we can ensure policies advance equity.

Potential unintended consequences

This is a critically important question and one where we most frequently recommend amendments. Can include concerns about enforcement, conflicting legislation, and more.

What the bill does

Short summary of the bill’s content.

Positive/negative impacts on County

This can include fiscal impact, population-wide or region-wide impact.

Stakeholders

Considering who the stakeholders are and how they are impacted is helpful when we expect to testify on a bill. This lets us explore who is aligned with the public health approach and who is likely to be in opposition to it.

Fiscal impacts (specific dollar amounts or estimates)

Bills often come with fiscal notes prepared by state agencies to estimate the cost of implementing the bill. This includes costs like staffing, rulemaking, adjustments to government system practices, etc.

Recommended position and priority

SMEs testify on bills that impact County priorities

Testimony builds on bill review content

Usually 1-2 minutes to get key points across

Advocacy groups sometimes build testimony panels

Pro, con, and other testimony groups alternate

Legislators can ask questions
Testifying on Firearm Bills

- Hearings can be tense and complex, with heavy organizing of stakeholders for and against.
- Legislators participate in extreme messaging against firearm policy changes.
- Testimony on both sides is highly emotional.

Key Takeaways

- Policy is a key tool for preventing violence and injury.
- It is appropriate to ask to be involved in your organization’s policy work.
- If you do get involved in policy work, do your homework — know the issue, what key stakeholders think, and the equity impact.
- You have the right to be involved in policy work on your own time, with your own resources, in addition to or instead of through your job.

A Chat with Tony Gomez and Karyn Brownson

Aliene Mares  Tony Gomez  Karyn Brownson