



# Reducing Injuries and Violence Through Policy



**Tony Gomez, BS, RS**

Program Manager

Violence and Injury Prevention

Public Health – Seattle & King County



**Karyn Brownson, MSW**

Community Violence Prevention Manager

Violence and Injury Prevention

Public Health – Seattle & King County



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

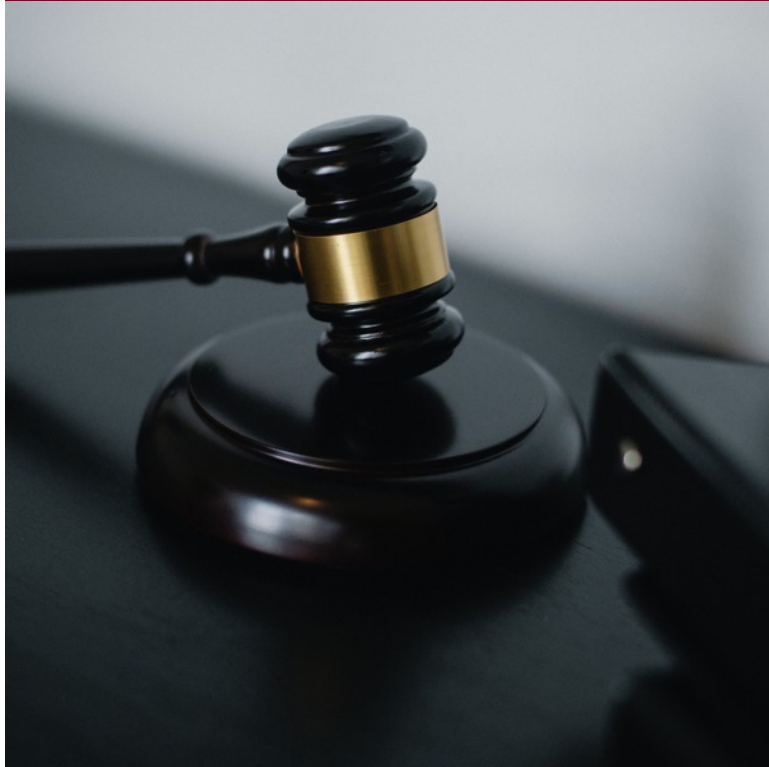


*Describe your level of knowledge or experience with violence and injury prevention policy:*

- A. A lot
- B. Some
- C. Little
- D. None

# Violence and Injury Prevention Policy Overview

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# Federal, State and Local Policies

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# Understanding Policy Processes

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# Violence and Injury Prevention Policy Overview



# Questions to Consider



## Methodology

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



## Equity

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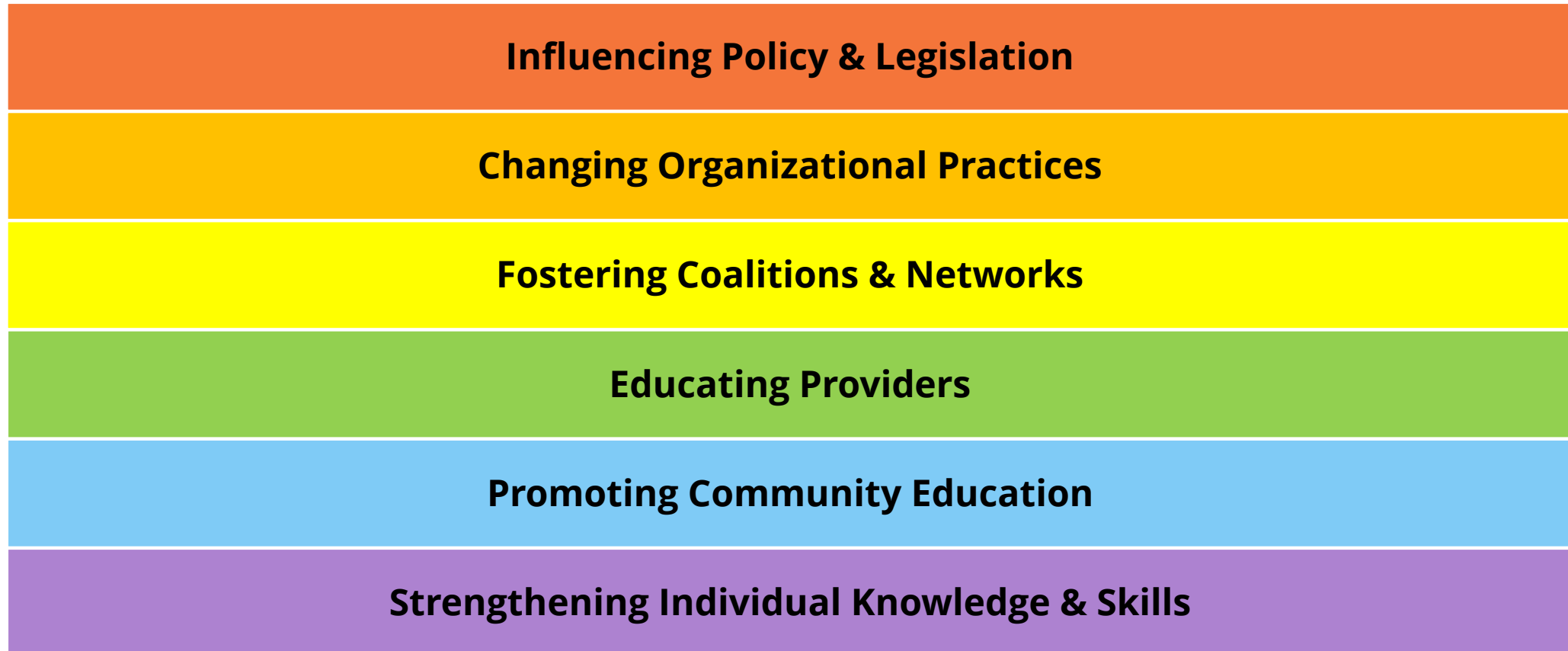
- Firearm-related injury data show stark inequities based on race, gender, age, geography, and socioeconomic class.
- Where does policy fit in the landscape of solutions?

# Leading Causes of Death for Washington Residents (2020)

Cause of Death	Age-Adjusted Rate per 100,000
Malignant Neoplasms	135.74
Diseases of the Heart	131.33
Violence & Injuries (Intentional & Unintentional)	71.21
Alzheimer's Disease	41.71
COVID-19	35.82
Cerebrovascular Diseases	33.88
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	28.89
Diabetes	22.23
Chronic Liver Disease	14.12

Source: Washington Tracking Network (WTN), Washington State Department of Health, April 2022.

# Spectrum of Prevention



Source: Prevention Institute, <https://preventioninstitute.org/>



# 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

# Federal Level Work



Safe States Alliance – Injury and Violence Prevention Network (IVPN)

## **Safe States Hill Days**

- Meeting with members of Congress or staff
- Advocacy framework
- Sign on letters
- *Dear Colleague* letters

# 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 opioids
  - 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

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# 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
- 22 children died from injuries in 2009, down from 55 in 2000
- 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

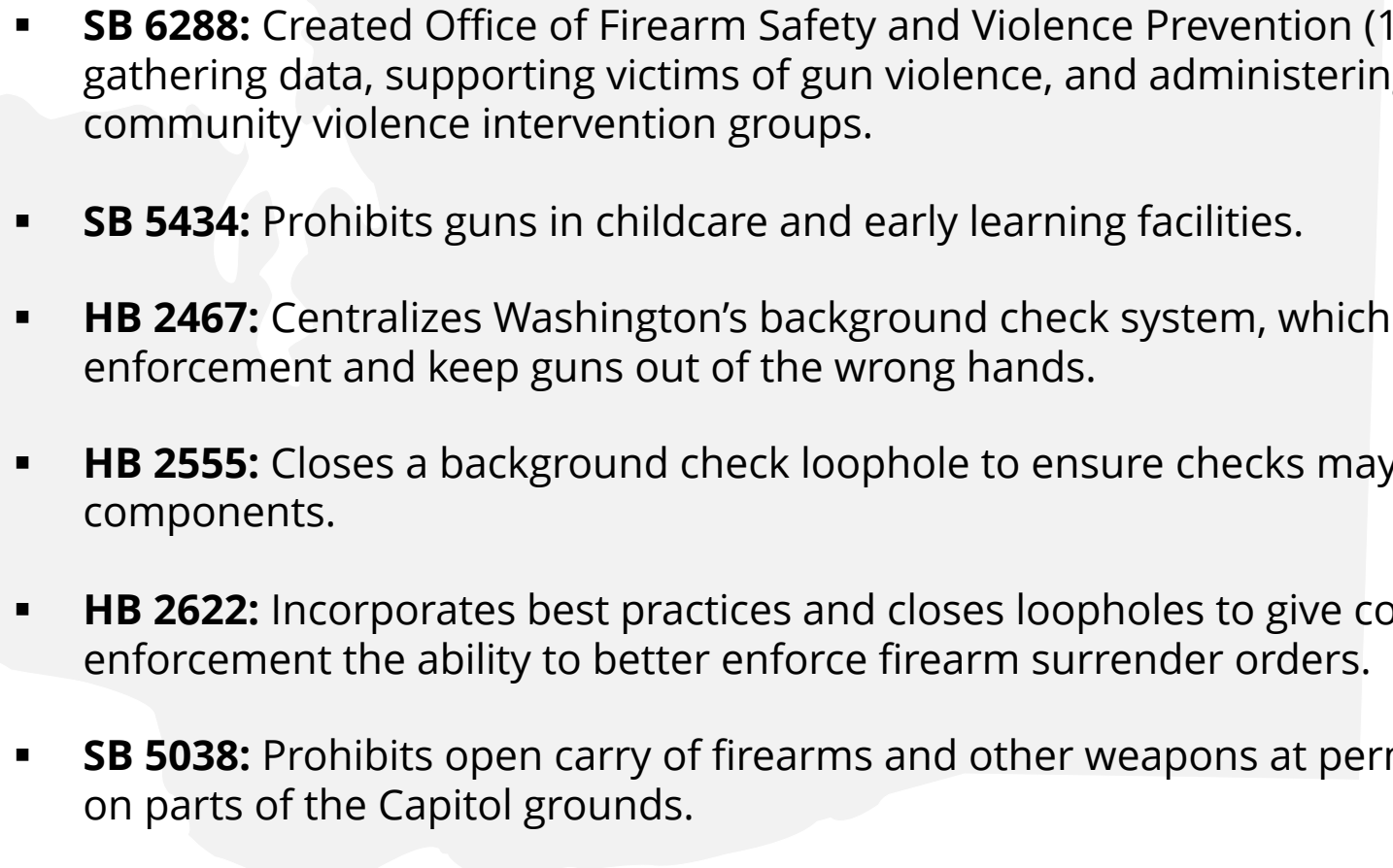
- **Longtime legislative gridlock**

- 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.

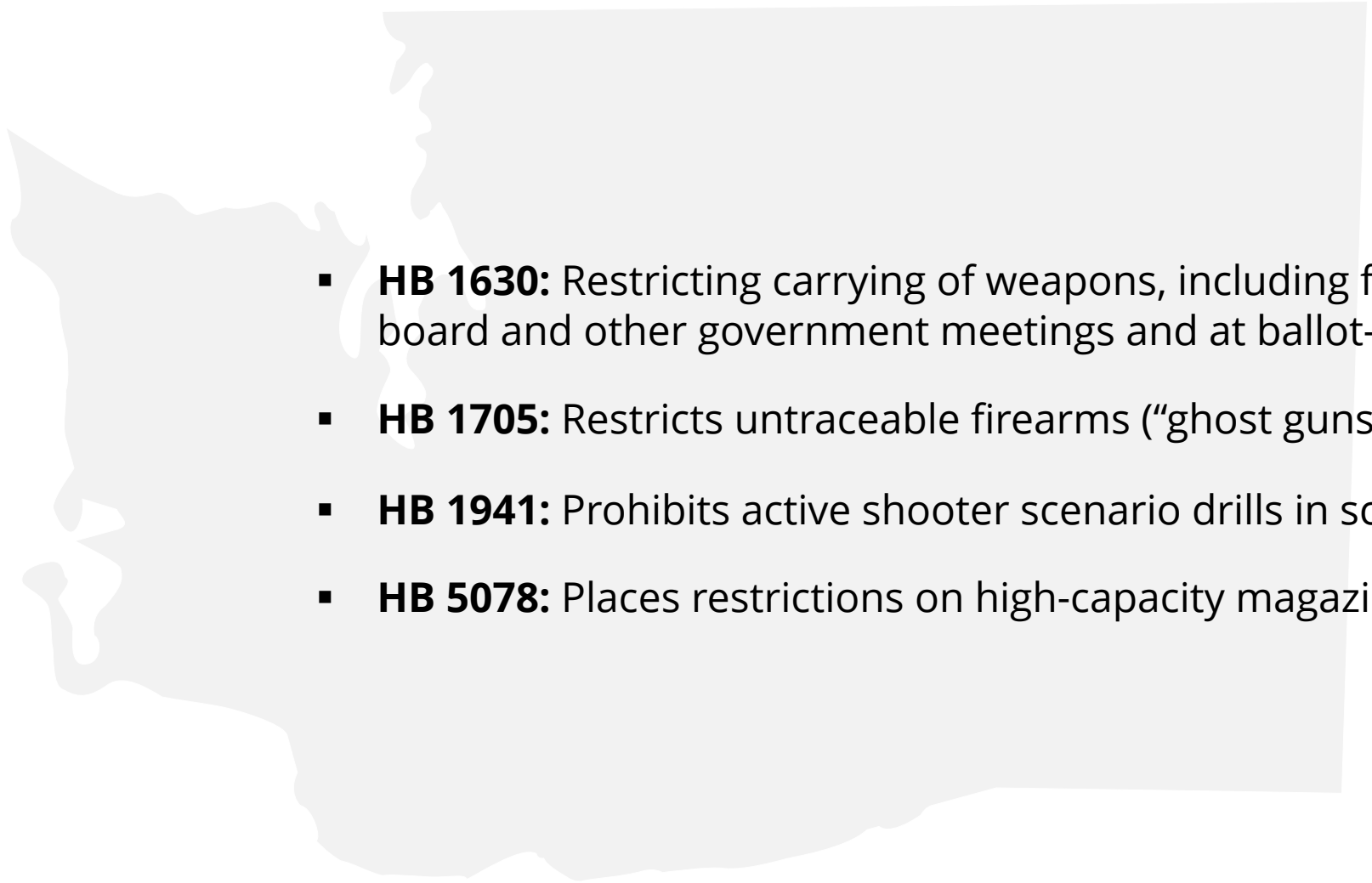
- **2017 – 2020: Introduction of many new state bills focusing on:**

- 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

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- **SB 6288:** Created Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention (1<sup>st</sup> in USA), tasked with gathering data, supporting victims of gun violence, and administering grant programs to community violence intervention groups.
  - **SB 5434:** Prohibits guns in childcare and early learning facilities.
  - **HB 2467:** 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 5038:** Prohibits open carry of firearms and other weapons at permitted demonstrations and on parts of the Capitol grounds.
  - **SB 5259:** Establishes and requires data collection and dissemination on police use of force.

# Firearm-related Policies Passed in 2022

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- **HB 1630:** Restricting carrying of weapons, including firearms, at school board and other government meetings and at ballot-counting facilities
  - **HB 1705:** Restricts untraceable firearms (“ghost guns”)
  - **HB 1941:** Prohibits active shooter scenario drills in schools
  - **HB 5078:** Places restrictions on high-capacity magazines



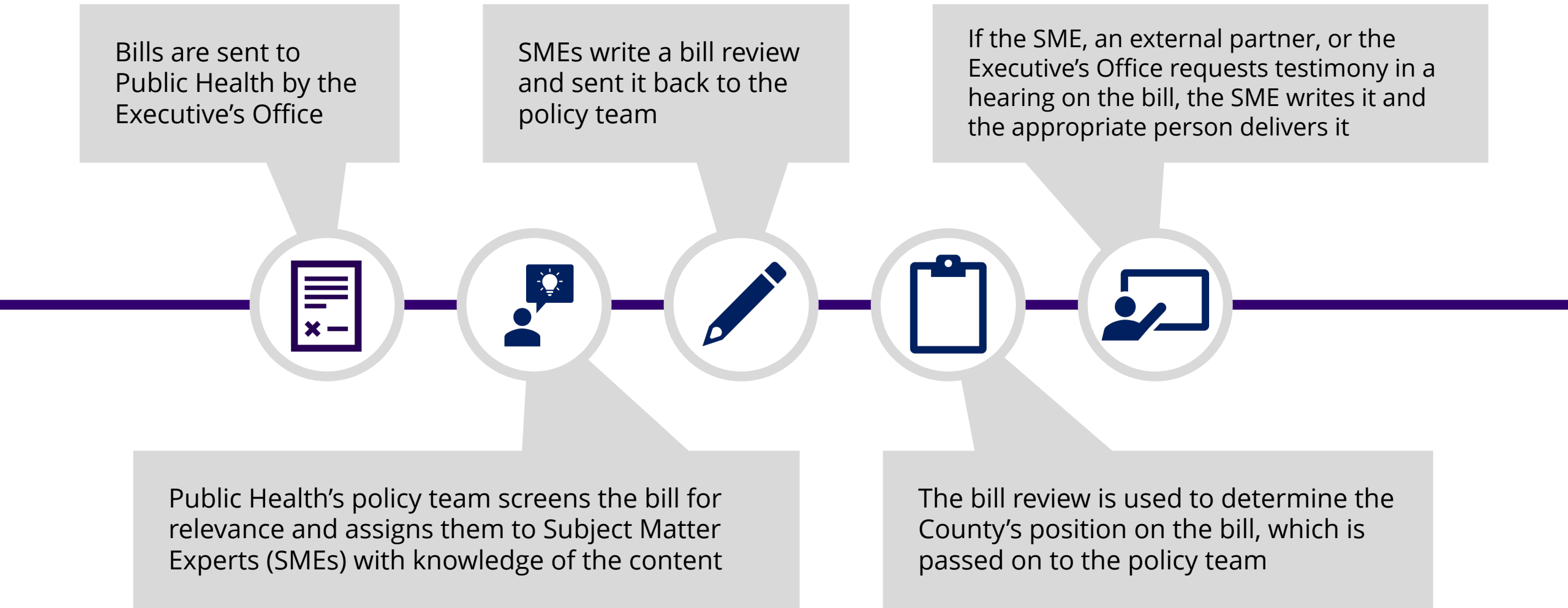
# Understanding Policy Processes

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# Public Health's Legislative Process



# Bill Analysis at Public Health

1

## **What the bill does**

Short summary of the bill's content.

2

## **Positive/negative impacts on County**

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

3

## **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.

4

## **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.

# Bill Analysis at Public Health

5

## **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.

6

## **Changes/amendments**

Amendments suggested by SMEs can sometimes be passed on to the bill sponsor via Public Health's lobbying team.

7

## **Fiscal impacts (specific dollar amounts or estimates)**

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

8

## **Recommended position and priority**

# Giving Legislative Testimony

- **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



Allene  
Mares



Tony  
Gomez



Karyn  
Brownson

# QUESTIONS?

To ask a question, please click the



icon in the Zoom toolbar to open your Q&A Pod.



# Resources

## **Spectrum of Prevention**

Prevention Institute

<https://www.preventioninstitute.org/tools/spectrum-prevention-0>

## **Safe States Alliance Policy and Position Statements**

Safe States Alliance

<https://www.safestates.org/general/custom.asp?page=Statements>

## **Safe States Alliance Firearm Policy Statement**

Safe States Alliance

[https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.safestates.org/resource/resmgr/policy/SSA\\_Firearm\\_Policy\\_Statement.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.safestates.org/resource/resmgr/policy/SSA_Firearm_Policy_Statement.pdf)

## **Gun Policy in America**

RAND Corporation

<https://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy.html>

## **Policy and Advocacy**

Washington State Public Health Association

<https://www.wspha.org/policy-and-advocacy>