

**Translating Data and Research into Policy**  
*From Analysis to Action*

Hosted by ASTHO and CSTE

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## *Avenues of Influence*

- Take advantage of opportunities
- Respond to requests
- Engage in agenda setting
- Participate in policy formulation



## *Take advantage of opportunities*

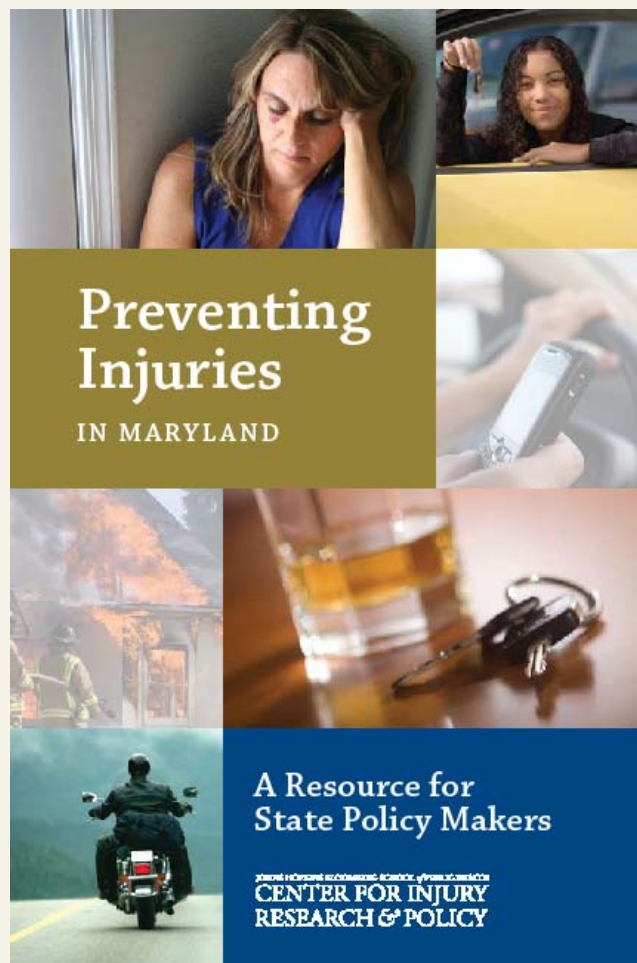
- Examples of opportunities
  - Events related to public health issue of interest
  - Chance meetings
  - Personal/professional interests of policy makers



## *Respond to Requests*

- Requests from policymakers to provide information, testimony.

# *Agenda Setting: Example of Injury in Maryland*



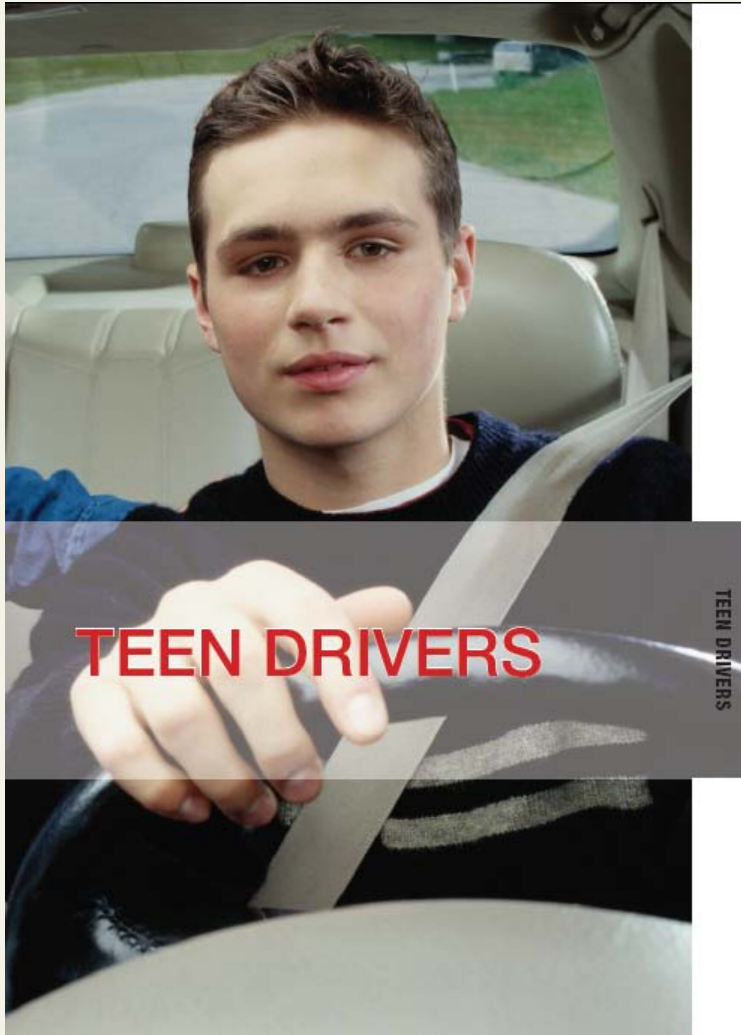


## *Agenda Setting: Example of Injury in Maryland*

### Goals of Outreach:

- Raise awareness about the toll of injury in Maryland
- Offer solutions to prevent and reduce the burden of injury in Maryland
- Center for Injury Research and Policy is a resource

## *Agenda Setting: Example of Injury in Maryland*



### **Strategy:**

- Policy guide
- Committee briefing
- Press event





## *Participate in Policy Formulation: Ways to Engage*

- Volunteer with an elected official
  - Annapolis
  - Washington
- Meet with an elected official
- Testify on a bill (rules vary among legislative bodies)

## *Participate in Policy Formulation: Example of IPV and Guns*

### Goals of Outreach:

- Raise awareness to variation among laws
- Provide information about status of state laws
- Recommend specific components of good policy
- Establish Center for Gun Policy and Research as a resource

## *Participate in Policy Formulation: Example of IPV and Guns*

### REMOVING GUNS FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDERS

An Analysis of State Level Policies  
to Prevent Future Abuse



*Center for Gun Policy and Research*

Protecting Health. Saving Lives—Millions at a Time

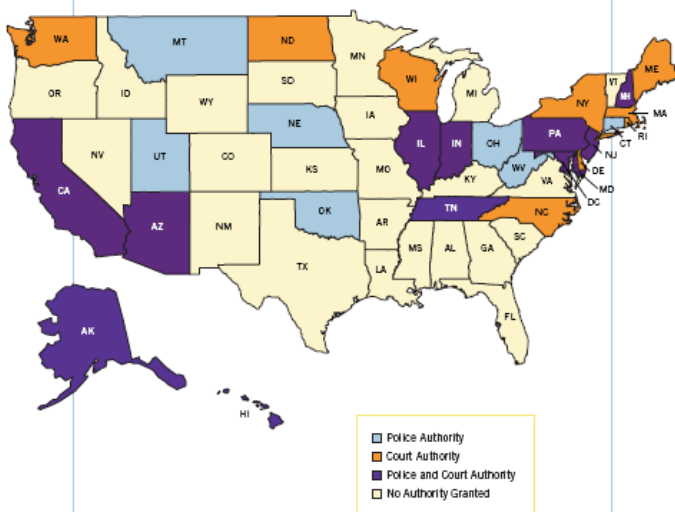
### **Strategy:**

- Summary of state laws
- Distribute
- Make available

# Participate in Policy Formulation: Example of IPV and Guns

## REMOVING GUNS FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDERS

### State-by-State Summary



## REMOVING GUNS FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDERS

### Laws Granting Court Authority to Order Respondents to Surrender Firearms through Protective Orders

**Authority:** Whether the court is required by law (shall) or has discretionary authority (may) under the law to order firearms removed is noted in this column.

**Type of Protective Order:** Whether the authority to order guns removed applies to temporary and/or permanent protective orders is noted in this column.

**Gun Use or Risk of Use Required:** Whether gun use, or perceived risk of gun use is required in order for the court to order firearms removed is noted in this column.

**Surrender Responsibility:** Whether responsibility for surrendering firearms ordered removed lies with the Respondent and/or law enforcement is noted in this column.

#### Alabama

Research did not reveal any laws that explicitly grant the court authority to order an accused batterer to surrender firearms through a protective order.

#### Alaska

Alaska Stat. § 18-66-100(b)(7)

The court may use the protective order to require a respondent to surrender his firearms if the respondent used a firearm during the domestic violence incident. When investigating a domestic violence crime, a law enforcement officer shall inform the victim, both orally and in writing, of the services available to victims of intimate partner violence and the right to petition the court for a protective order that may require the respondent to surrender his firearms.

Authority	Type of Protective Order	Gun Use or Risk of Use Required	Surrender Responsibility
May	Permanent	Yes	Respondent

#### Arizona

Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 13-3602(S)(4)

As part of an order of protection, the court may prohibit a respondent from possessing or purchasing firearms for the duration of the order if there is a credible threat to the physical safety of the petitioner. A respondent must surrender his firearms to law enforcement immediately upon service of the order, or within 24 hours.

Authority	Type of Protective Order	Gun Use or Risk of Use Required	Surrender Responsibility
May	Permanent	No	Respondent

#### Arkansas

Research did not reveal any laws that explicitly grant the court authority to order an accused batterer to surrender firearms through a protective order.

Police Authority	Police and Court Authority
Court Authority	No Authority Granted



## *Audiences to Influence*

- Policy makers
- Advocates
- Media
- Other stakeholders

## *Types of Research that Inform Policy*

- Size of the problem
- Scope of the problem
- Populations affected by the problem
- Costs associated with the problem (not limited to dollars)
- What is currently being done about the problem?
- What should we be doing about the problem?
  - What is involved in doing what you recommend?
  - What will be gained by following your recommendation?
- **SIMPLE**



## *How Research Can Affect Policy*

- Generate new ideas
  - Attention to emerging problems
  - Re-define old problems
  - Propose new solutions
- Provide information about solutions under consideration
  - evaluation



## *Using Research to Inform Policy: Tools and Concepts*

### Social Math

- An ignition interlock cost less than a beer a day
- A residential sprinkler system costs less to install in a new home than a granite countertop.
- The number of uninsured people in the US is about equal to the populations of California, Oregon and Washington combined.



## *Using Research to Inform Policy: Tools and Concepts*

### Synthesis Project of RWJF

- translated
- accessible
- relevant
  
- Why is this of interest to policymakers?
- What story does the evidence tell?
- What choices does the evidence suggest would be most effective?
- What are the implications for policymakers?

## *Using Research to Inform Policy: Tools and Concepts*

### Health Impact Assessment

- A combination of procedures, methods and tools that systematically judges the potential effects of a policy, program or project on the health of a population and the distribution of those effects within the population. HIA identifies appropriate actions to manage those effects.

*(IAIA 2006, adapted from world health organization, 1999)*

- A practical approach for translating public health research into predictions and practical recommendations that decision-makers can use to ensure that their policies contribute to healthier communities.

*Source: The Health Impact Project,  
Pew Charitable Trusts*



Essential skill common across tools and  
venues:

**WRITING**

## *Tips for Successful Policy Writing*

- Characteristics/qualities of good written policy documents:
  - correct
  - concise
  - clear
  - credible
    - primary source material when citing data

*Source: Catherine F. Smith, Writing Public Policy*

## *Tips for Successful Policy Writing*

- Characteristics/qualities of good written policy documents:
  - active voice (avoid the passive)
  - simplify words, when possible
    - utilize ⇒ use
    - formulate ⇒ make
    - facilitate ⇒ help
  - precise
  - efficient
  - logical
    - multiple sources of support



## *Tips for Successful Policy Writing*

- Style
  - when using data
    - take holiday dinner test
  - easy to read
    - space and layout
  - avoid jargon
  - direct
  - avoid abusive language
- Content
  - Include references
  - Include contact information

## Examples of Writing for a Policy Audience: Advertisement

WHILE YOU WERE ON RECESS, NEARLY

**4 MILLION  
AMERICANS**

RECEIVED MEDICAL TREATMENT  
FOR INJURIES, GENERATING  
**9 BILLION DOLLARS**  
IN LIFETIME MEDICAL COSTS.

Injury is one of the most serious, costly and preventable health problems in the U.S. It is the leading cause of death for children. Each day 475 Americans die of injuries from car crashes, falls, assaults, fires and other trauma.

Many injuries can be prevented.

**INCLUDE INJURY PREVENTION IN  
HEALTH CARE REFORM  
TO SAVE LIVES AND MONEY.**

American Academy of Pediatrics • American Trauma Society • Center for Injury Research and Policy of Nationwide Children's Hospital • Harborview Injury Prevention & Research Center • Home Safety Council • Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy • Medical College of Wisconsin Injury Research Center • Mount Sinai Injury Control Research Center • National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions • National Fire Protection Association • Research!America • Safe Kids USA • Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research • State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association • University of Iowa Injury Prevention Research Center • University of North Carolina Injury Prevention Research Center • Washington University Brown Center for Violence and Injury Prevention • West Virginia University Injury Control Research Center

To learn what you can do to put injury prevention in health care reform, visit [www.jhsph.edu/InjuryCenter/HealthCareReform](http://www.jhsph.edu/InjuryCenter/HealthCareReform)





## *Tips for Successful Policy Writing*

- Make the time for edits
  - review draft
  - have others review
  - then review it again



## *And Remember*

- Types of Policy
  - litigation
  - regulation
  - legislation



## *Where Are We Going?*

- Venues for Making Policy
  - within country levels of government
  - corporate
  - global



## *Final Thought*

*The good news is that evidence can matter.  
The bad news is that it often does not.*

*Julius Court*