

Preventing Injuries & Violence Locally

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LOCAL IMPACT



SAFE STATES
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“Think globally, act locally” is a phrase that has been used many times over the years, yet its validity remains timeless. Policies at the national and state levels can result in sweeping changes that can expand the impact and reach of injury and violence prevention programs. However, it is important to not lose sight of the important impact of policy changes at the local level as they can often have more immediate effects and lead to changes in an organization and community. These localized changes can ultimately create social will, which can galvanize a movement in support of broader state and national policies. Many of our nation’s social issues of interest started at the local level, such as Black Lives Matter, #MeToo, gay marriage rights, and others.

Safe States Alliance members interested in being more involved in local advocacy efforts may want to consider the following recommendations and resources. Some of the recommendations directly prevent injuries and violence. Others have indirect impacts such as decreasing risk factors for Adverse Childhood Experiences and increasing protective factors such as community-level connectedness.

Before beginning any advocacy work, understanding the historical and local context of a community, including systemic and structural causes that have resulted in inequities, is essential. This is best accomplished through partnership with community coalitions that include residents with lived experience. The community benefits when a range of partners with shared investment collaborate and advocate for policies that ensure a thriving community where all members have the same opportunities to be safe and healthy.

The information provided in this document is not exhaustive. It has been compiled and curated following a review of existing resources with the assistance of Safe States members. The list does not include recommendations for all injury and violence categories. The examples included provide a range of local policies and ordinances for which injury and violence prevention professionals can advocate in their local jurisdictions.

Because the document is focused on local policies, the list does not include examples of best practice state and federal laws and policies.



POLICIES THAT ADDRESS SHARED RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Policies that address shared risk and protective factors (SRPF) approaches improve multiple health and quality-of-life outcomes among a wide range of populations at the same time in ways that are positive and equitable. The policy examples in this section can intervene to decrease damaging risk factors such as poverty, economic inequality, and substance misuse, while reinforcing protective factors such as de-stigmatized mental healthcare, community culture, and resilience.

Examples of Policies that Reduce Access to Substances (alcohol, cannabis, tobacco, opioids, and other drugs)

[Smoke-free Policies](#)

[Managing Alcohol Outlet Density](#)

[Ordinances Against Hosting Underage Drinking Social Gatherings](#)

[Dram Shop Liability Laws](#)

[Safe Prescribing Practices Among Local Healthcare Providers](#)

[Limit Point of Sale Advertising and Promotion](#)

[Increase the Unit Price for Substances](#)

[Cannabis Use Guidance](#)

Examples of Policies that Support Safe, Stable and Affordable Housing

[Preserving, Protecting, and Expanding Affordable Housing](#)

[Home Equity: A Vision of Housing Security, Health, and Opportunity](#)

[Local Housing Policies](#)

[Housing Trust Funds](#)

Examples of Policies that Expand Family-Friendly Business Practices

[Family-Friendly Workplace Toolkit](#)

[Workplace Connections](#)

[Paid Family and Sick Leave Policies](#)



POLICIES THAT SPECIFICALLY ADDRESS INJURY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The following policy examples address specific injury and violence issues.

Examples of Policies to Strengthen Lethal Means Safety for Firearm Injury Prevention

Policies that Support Clinical Counseling about Firearm Ownership and Safe Storage

Suicide Prevention Partnerships with Firearm Retailers and Range Owners

Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO)

Minimum Age Requirements for Purchasing Firearms

Examples of Policies/Ordinances to Prevent Transportation-Related Injuries

Hospital Child Passenger Safety Discharge Policy

Model Legislation to Improve Bicycle Safety

Implementing Vision Zero in Your Community

Examples of Policies to Prevent Elder Abuse

Elder Abuse Screening Tools for Healthcare Professionals

Examples of Policies to Prevent Older Adult Falls

Screening/Programs in Clinical Settings

Examples of Policies/Ordinances to Prevent Intimate Partner Violence

Screening for Intimate Partner Violence in Healthcare Settings

Insurance Coverage for Intimate Partner Violence Screening

Improve School Climate and Safety

Improve Organizational Policies and Workplace Climate

Modify the Physical and Social Environments of Neighborhoods

Examples of Policies to Prevent Suicides

Social Emotional Learning in Classrooms

Improve Organizational Policies and Workplace Climate

Integrate Primary Care and Mental Health Care

Increase Access to Telehealth Services



ADDRESSING PREEMPTION

Some state legislatures have used a legal doctrine called “preemption” to limit or eliminate the power of a lower level government. When misused, state preemption can threaten the ability of local jurisdictions to adopt public health and safety laws and equity-promoting policies. It is important for injury and violence prevention professional to understand how to assess and address preemption.

Assessing & Addressing Preemption

This document highlights examples of local-level policies that would support injury and violence prevention in your community. As noted above, this list is not exhaustive; we encourage you to engage with your local jurisdictions to learn about existing and potential policies that may warrant your support.

Safe States would love to hear from you – what policies are under consideration in your community? If you have a potential link to add to the next edition of this document, please submit it to info@safestates.org.



The **Safe States Alliance** is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to serving as the national voice in support of state and local injury and violence prevention professionals engaged in building a safer, healthier America. Founded in 1993, the Safe States Alliance is the only national non-profit organization comprised of public health injury and violence prevention professionals representing all states and territories in the United States.