Student Resource 11.5

Compare and Contrast:   
Community-Based and Policy-Based Interventions

Student Names:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Directions: An issue like driving and texting can be addressed by both policy interventions and community interventions. Read the sections below and answer the questions about each intervention. Then use the Venn diagram to compare and contrast community-based health interventions and policy interventions.

Introduction to Driving and Texting

Driving and texting, a type of distracted driving, is a leading cause of accidents in the United States. This issue especially affects teens. According to one survey, almost half of teens admit to driving and texting. People who drive and text are 23% more likely to be in a crash than those who don’t.

By 2012, 39 states had implemented a policy intervention to address this serious issue. These states have laws banning texting while driving. Community health interventions are also used to fight driving and texting.

Community Interventions Address Texting While Driving

The It Can Wait program alerts teens to the dangers of texting while driving. Health educators visit high schools in communities in several states, such as Arkansas and Florida. They show a documentary that features the families of teens who died in texting and driving accidents. They also bring an experiment. Teens take turns “driving” in a special car. They put on headgear that shows an active roadway with pedestrians and stoplights. Hooked up to a simulator, the teens steer and press gas and brake pedals while texting. Their peers watch on a screen as the teen drivers try to navigate the objects in the road.

Who is the target audience of the It Can Wait program?

Who runs the program?

What are some of the resources that the program needs in order to run?

What consequences do students face if they disregard the program?

What outcome do you think program organizers are hoping for?

Policy Interventions Also Address Texting While Driving

In 2007–2008, electronic communication devices were the cause of 1,336 wrecks in Arkansas. In response to the problem, a law went into effect in 2009 prohibiting Arkansas drivers from texting while driving. The ban is referred to as Paul’s Law, named after a father who was killed in a head-on crash with a driver who was typing a text. The law prohibits reading, writing, or sending text messages while driving. Drivers will be fined if they are caught texting while driving.

Who does the Paul’s Law intervention affect?

Who is involved in enforcing the intervention?

What are some of the resources that the program needs in order to run?

What consequence do drivers face if they don’t follow the law?

What outcome do you think lawmakers are hoping for?

Comparing the Community Intervention and Policy Intervention Approaches

List characteristics of policy interventions in the left oval, characteristics of community interventions in the right oval, and characteristics that are common to both in the overlapping area. Consider factors such as outcomes, target audience, activities, and other characteristics you have learned about interventions.

**Policy Interventions**

**Community Interventions**