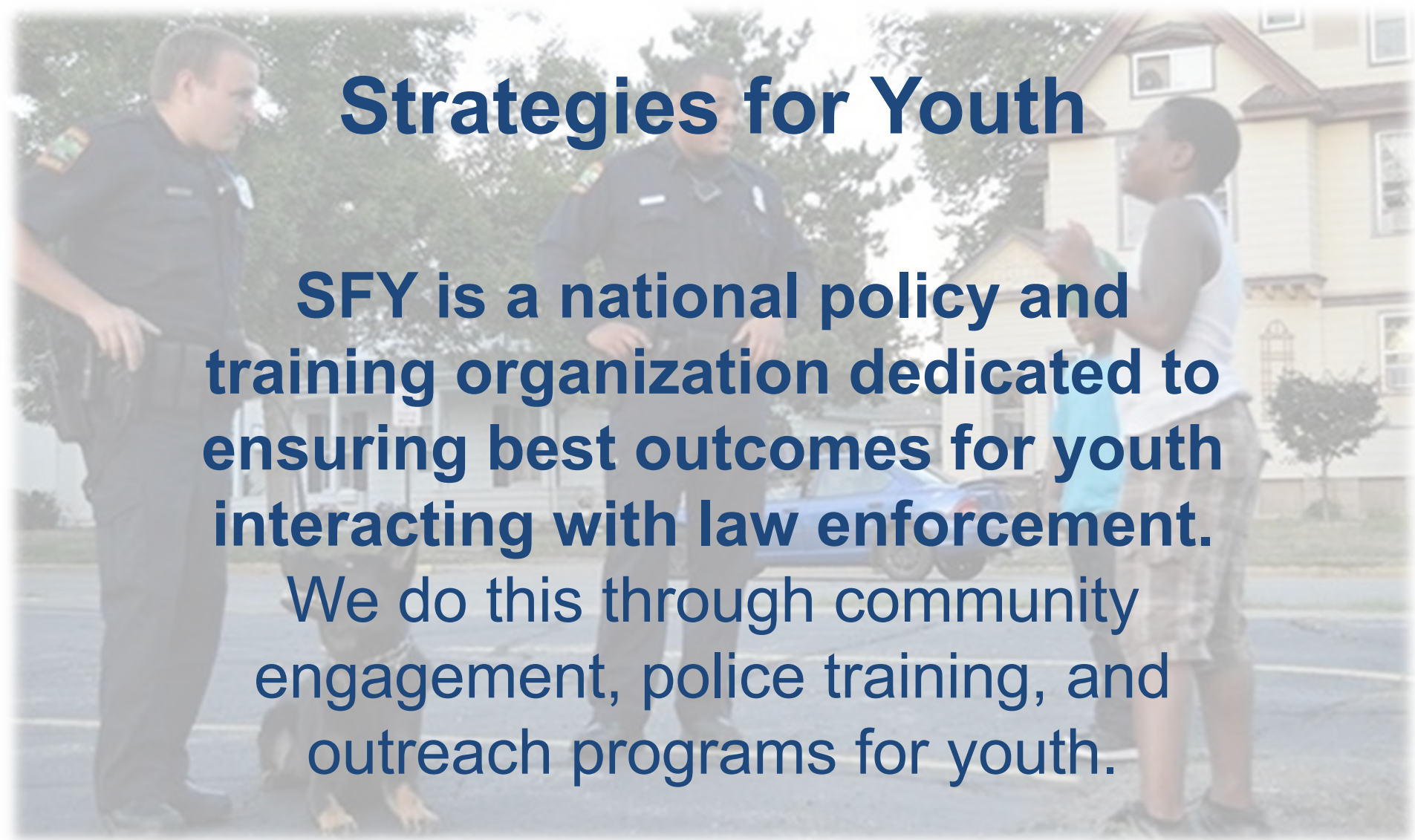


**Introducing:
12 Model
Law Enforcement Policies
for
Interactions with Youth**

Strategies for Youth

SFY is a national policy and training organization dedicated to ensuring best outcomes for youth interacting with law enforcement.

We do this through community engagement, police training, and outreach programs for youth.



SFY's Mission is to Go Upstream



- To gatekeepers reduce arrests, escalation of incidents, and use of force
- By equipping LEOs and LEAs to use DATIE approaches
- Educate youth



SFY Experience in Maine

- **Training Law Enforcement**
 - *Policing the Teen Brain*
 - *Policing the Teen Brain in School*
- **Educational Outreach for Youth**
 - Juvenile Justice Jeopardy Street Games
- Review of SROs study and development of MOU Checklist

Are policies necessary?

- State of Maine **does not require training** on how to interact effectively with youth
 - No statewide integration of SFY's training
 - Presented to ME LE Academy in Jan. 2023
- Most LEAs **do not have policies** that distinguish youth from adults; state doesn't have model policy. [Where's the State?](#)
(Updated 2022)

Policies Serve as a:



- Contract
- All are on notice
- Predictor
- Parameters
- Accountability
- Community Oriented Policing

Policies for Who?

Policies for youth should:

- Developmentally appropriate
- Trauma informed
- Equitable (race, immigrant status, LGBTQ)
- Include what treatment of youth when parents are arrested/residences are searched
- Include data collection
- Transparency policies and complaint systems

SFY's 12 Model Policies



Model Policies

Each **POLICY** provides law enforcement agencies and officers with guidance on how to interact with youth in developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed, equitable ways that comply with the law. Additional sources and background information for the policy can be found in the **APPENDIX**.

- **POLICY 1 | Appendix 1**
Overview of Youth Interaction Policies
- **POLICY 2 | Appendix 2**
Investigatory Steps, Non-Custodial Interviews, and Search and Seizure of Youth
- **POLICY 3 | Appendix 3**
Arrest, Transport, Booking, and Temporary Custody
- **POLICY 4 | Appendix 4**
Miranda Warnings, Waiver of Rights, and Youth Interrogations
- **POLICY 5 | Appendix 5**
Use of Force with Youth
- **POLICY 6 | Appendix 6**
Fair and Impartial Policing of Youth: Race, National Origin, and Immigration Status
- **POLICY 7 | Appendix 7**
Fair and Impartial Policing LGBTQ+ Youth
- **POLICY 8 | Appendix 8**
Policing of Youth with Disabilities, Experiencing Mental Health Crises, or Impaired by Drugs or Alcohol
- **POLICY 9 | Appendix 9**
Protection of Youth Who Are Vulnerable Due to the Arrest of Parents or Other Caretakers, the Execution of Residential Search Warrants, or Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- **POLICY 10 | Appendix 10**
Law Enforcement Interactions With Students
- **POLICY 11**
Data Collection
- **POLICY 12**
Transparency and Accountability

Youth-Specific Policies are Necessary

Strong reports of harmful interactions between youth and law enforcement agencies and the lack of model policies led Strategies for Youth to fill this void with its 12 Model Law Enforcement Policies for Youth Interaction. These policies are the first of their kind to be introduced and provide a viable roadmap for law enforcement leaders, elected officials, communities and insurance providers.

[Why Youth Policies Are Necessary](#)

FOR THE MEDIA

Visit our Model Policies media page for media coverage, our press release, inquiry contact, and related information

[Media »](#)

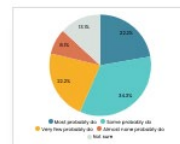
Benefits Of Adopting These Policies

- Law Enforcement Leaders
- Communities, Public Reform Advocates, and Youth Advocates
- Mayors, County Executives, Legislators
- Insurance Companies with Law Enforcement Agency Clients

Poll Highlights a Need for Change

Poll results show Americans want policies and training for law enforcement interactions with youth.

Do Law Enforcement Agencies Have Written Policies For Interactions With Youth?



[View Poll Findings](#)

- First of its kind
- Comprehensive
- Adopt & Adapt
- For LEAs
- For/By Legislatures
- Sources:
 - Consent Decrees
 - Stakeholders

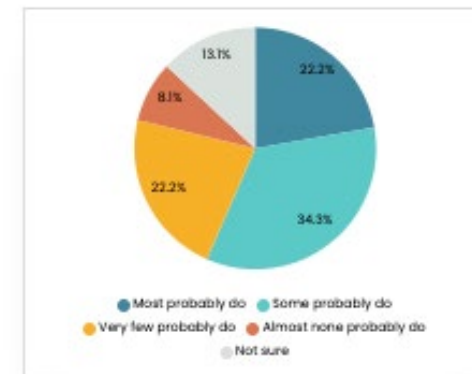
Americans Think LEOs are Trained & Have Policies for Youth Interactions

- Poll in September '23
- 56% believe officers guided by **policies**
- Approx. 65% want officers in schools to be **trained**, especially for MH
- 67% **alternatives** to arrest

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[More Poll Findings »](#)

Key for Front-End System Reforms

Strategies for Youth

**Making Your State a Model Juvenile Justice State
At the Front End of the System**

**Integrating Policies, Training, and Oversight for
Best Outcomes for Youth and Public Safety.**

Does your state offer this?

- Policies for Law Enforcement Agencies and Patrol Officers**
Statewide model policies incorporating developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed, racially equitable policies supporting best practices for law enforcement/youth interactions and ensuring officer adherence to state law for interactions ranging from investigatory stops to interrogations.
- Training for Patrol Officers**
Statewide, uniform, mandated training for law enforcement officers at the recruit and in-service levels, based on curricula that aligns with statewide policies and juvenile law, and is regularly updated to reflect new statutes and caselaw, that teaches officers practical skills and strategies for using developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed practices with youth.
- Certification of Officers who Regularly Interact with Youth**
Certification that ensures officers who regularly interact with youth (School Resource Officers, Patrol Officers assigned to Housing Authorities and Transit, etc.) are equipped and prepared to work with youth, are in good standing, have demonstrated effective de-escalation strategies, understand trauma-informed practices, have no sustained complaints/law suits for their interactions with youth, and are versed in state policies for interactions with youth.
- Partnerships Between Law Enforcement Agencies and Providers**
Officers and agencies that do not have strong partnerships with youth-serving community-based organizations—after school programs, mental health services, shelters, and services for immigrant youth—are often limited to three types of responses to youth in need of services or experiencing mental distress: arrest, referral to an emergency room, or a “wait and see” response. Initiating and supporting strong partnerships with community-based youth-serving providers offer law enforcement officers alternatives to arrest and incentivize their use of community referrals instead of juvenile justice referrals.
- Sustainability**
Effective training of law enforcement officers and routine updating of policies ensures that officers are equipped to interact effectively with youth and achieve the best possible outcomes for these interactions. Sustaining these strong front-end systems requires that agencies develop a reliable funding stream for training resources, personnel and legal review.

www.strategiesforyouth.org

- Ensuring gatekeepers are:
 - Trained
 - Guided
 - Supported

Policies are available at:

<https://strategiesforyouth.org/model-policies/>

SFY offers **legal assistance**
to LEAs and states to support adoption of
model policies.

lht@strategiesforyouth.org

sj@strategiesforyouth.org

617-714-3789