

# Injury Indicators for Children & Youth in Canada: Policy Indicators



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CIHR IRSC



# Project Overview

- To evaluate and score five policy indicators
- Establish a baseline assessment of the variability of provincial policies
- Involve the relevant decision-makers, expert policymakers, advocates, and programmers
- Pilot a Risk Indicator Survey to examine key observable behaviours and/or conditions
- Report injury-related morbidity and mortality outcomes

Current Study  
The Canadian Injury Indicators  
Team

*Injury Policy Indicators  
and their Associated  
Risk Factors and Outcomes*



# The Team

## Principals

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## Decision Makers

Ms. Pamela Fuselli, SafeKids

Dr. Phil Groff, SmartRisk

Dr. Richard Simons, Trauma  
Assoc. of Canada

Mr. Matt Herman, BC Min  
Healthy Living and Sport

Mr. Julian Young, NS Min  
Health Promotion



# Goals of the Current Study

- A greater understanding of the elements related to successful injury prevention policies and their interaction with injury risk factors and outcomes
- Improved evidence for injury prevention-related policies across Canada
- Reduced injury among Canadian children and youth



# Policy Indicators and Rationale

## Indicators

- Graduated driver licensing legislation
- Child restraint legislation
- Bicycle helmet legislation
- Regulations requiring compliance with the CSA playground standard
- The presence of a comprehensive pediatric trauma care system

## Rationale

- Criteria (Rigby, et al., 2003)
- Spectrum of injury prevention:
  - *primary* ► *secondary* ► *tertiary*
- Indicator 5 reflects best practices of tertiary prevention and injury control
- 71% of respondents said indicators would prompt action to prevent and reduce injuries
- Can be examined on a national scale



# Methods

Methods based on previous research in:

- Youth tobacco policies
- Clean indoor air policies
- School physical education and nutrition

## Phase 1

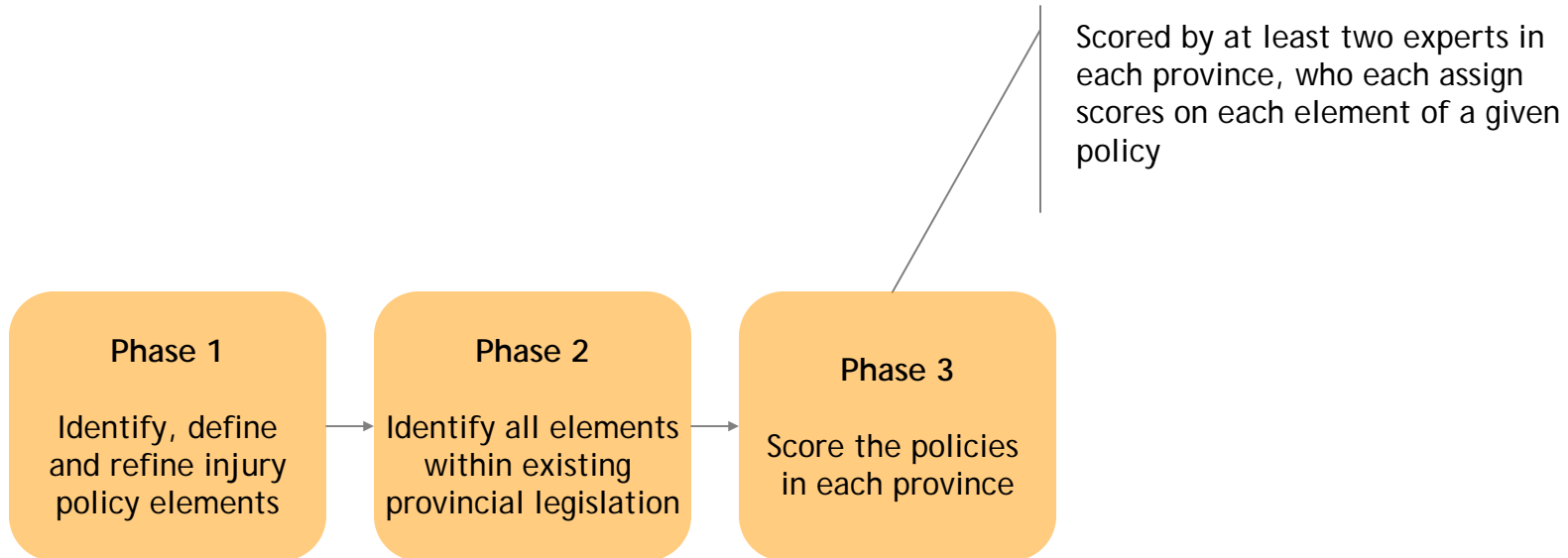
Identify, define and refine injury policy elements

## Phase 2

Identify all elements within existing provincial legislation

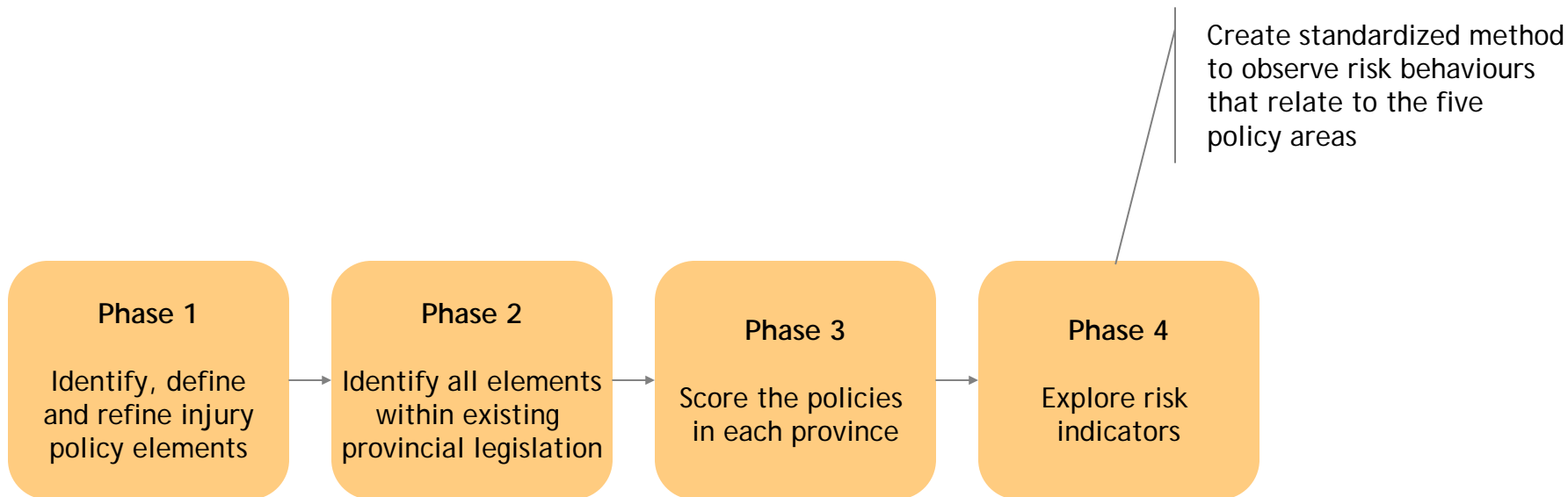


# Methods





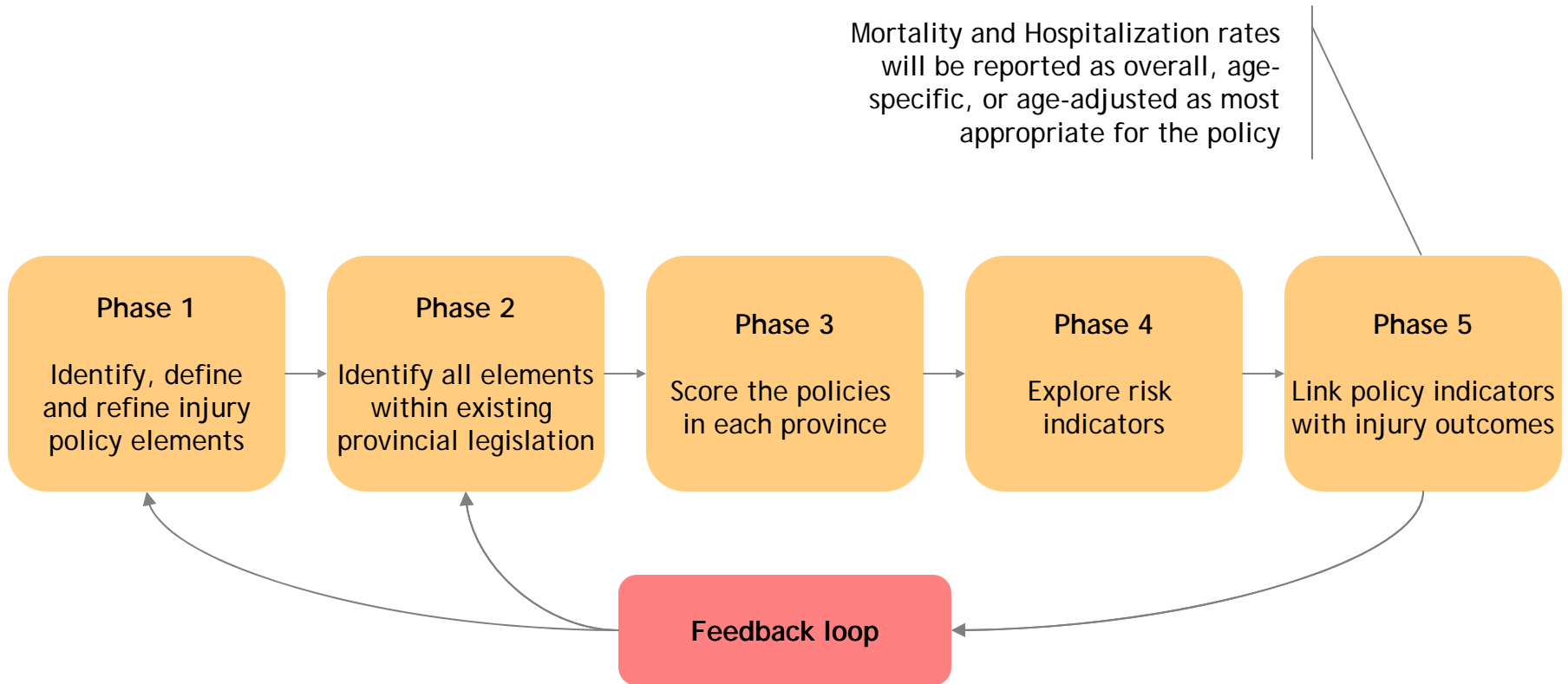
# Methods







# Methods





# Achievements & Milestones

- An assessment of Canadian policies and legislation which is linked directly to current evidence and literature
- A preliminary analysis of the impact of these laws, in terms of related risk factors and outcomes
- A standardized observational study instrument for measuring risk and protective behaviours for GDL
- Decision-relevant information for program managers and policy makers
  - national in scope
  - can be applied at municipal, provincial or other levels
  - will lead to web portal and indicator dashboard
- Applications for further funding to explore other policy indicators, risk factor and outcome indicators in more depth



## Graduated Driver Licensing STUDY 2010

**AREA**



### DATA COLLECTION FORM

**OBSERVERS NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TIME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TO** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME OF SITE AND LOCATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CODE OF SITE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TYPE OF LOCATION:**

Secondary School Parking Lot

Secondary School Roadside

**WEATHER:**

Sunny

Cloudy

Rainy

### ELEMENTS OF GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING

Sex	Seatbelt	Driver using cell phone	Loud Music	Unsafe driving behaviours	'L' or 'N'	Number of passengers (in addition to driver)
1 = M	1 = Yes	1 = Yes	1 = Yes	1 = Burn-out	1 = Yes	1 4 7 10
2 = F	2 = No	2 = No	2 = No	2 = Donut(s)	2 = No	2 5 8 11
3 = UK				3 = passengers in back of pick-up		3 6 9 12



## Key KT Successes

- Established relationships with policy makers and practitioners at the design phase of the research
  - KT process was truly integrated
- Face to face meetings to maintain those relationships
- Clear understanding that team management and process was part of the scientific responsibility of the PIs
- Openness to consult with additional stakeholders throughout the project
  - additional input from ThinkFirst, Public Health Agency of Canada, other researchers
- Continuous focus on making the research results useful



## Key KT Successes

*"I have worked closely with this group since 2006 and continue to provide the perspective of a policy maker and end-user to the Team. I have been most pleased with the relevance of their research and their ability to translate it meaningfully for injury prevention practitioners and stakeholders across the country. I also continue to be impressed by the Team's sincere desire to work closely with stakeholders to ensure the relevance of their research and support its translation for action."*

Mr. Julian Young, Nova Scotia Ministry of Health Promotion and Protection



## Key KT Challenges

- Not all provinces were equally engaged
  - government decision makers were from Nova Scotia and British Columbia
- Preliminary results difficult to interpret
  - variability in the effectiveness of bicycle helmet laws
  - protective in the East, but not in the West
- Enactment of laws not always based on evidence
  - opposition to helmet laws
- Funding an issue
  - difficult to do everything with \$62,500
  - we had to drop indicator 4 (playgrounds)



## Next Steps

- Continue to encourage the uptake and use of injury indicators to promote greater awareness and understanding of trends and patterns of child and youth injury in Canada
- Design and develop an online injury indicator dashboard
- Design and develop a First Nations and Inuit injury prevention portal (one-stop shop for injury information specific to Inuit and First Nations people)
- Support and encourage injury data collection and policy assessment in First Nations and Inuit communities
- Ongoing engagement with decision makers to implement findings (e.g. promote helmet laws and booster seat laws)



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**BC INJURY** research and  
prevention unit



Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation  
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- Canadian Institutes for Health Research
- BC Child and Youth Health Research Network
- Child Health BC
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit
- Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation

## Thank you