Distinguishing Policy & Community Practice
An Introduction

Learning Objective: To learn the basic difference between a policy and a community practice

Additional Information: Refer to TIPS Card 12 for additional information.

Scaffolds: We have additional activities on policy and practice that can be coupled with this to introduce the concept. Consider using this activity as the introductory conversation. Then use the What's In Your Backpack? hands-on activity so students have the opportunity to try this out before research begins.

1] Display the following table in front of your class.

Column 1: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _	Column 2: _ _ _ _ _ _ _
Chewing gum is not allowed in school	I choose to wear jeans on the weekends
You must be 16 to get a driver's license	My neighbors recycle their bottles and cans
ABC Pharmaceutical Company does not test its products on animals	A big group of high school students usually hangs out at the local skate park on Friday nights

Explain that one column is a list of policies and the other is a list of practices.

2] Ask: "What do the statements in the first list have in common?"
Answer: They are rules or guidelines established by people/organizations in authority.

Explain that we refer to these as policies. There are public policies, which are rules/laws instituted by various levels of the government, and private policies, which are by private institutions, like your school or ABC Pharmaceutical Company.

3] Ask: "What do the statements in the second list have in common?"
Answer: They are habits and behaviors – basically things people do.

Explain that we refer to these as practices. They can either follow or contradict policies, if a policy is in place.

4] Debrief by explaining that we will be exploring and gathering information on policies and practices for the chosen issue. Answer any clarifying questions needed to move forward.