

Updating First Responder Materials and Trainings to Prevent Escalation Events

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Background

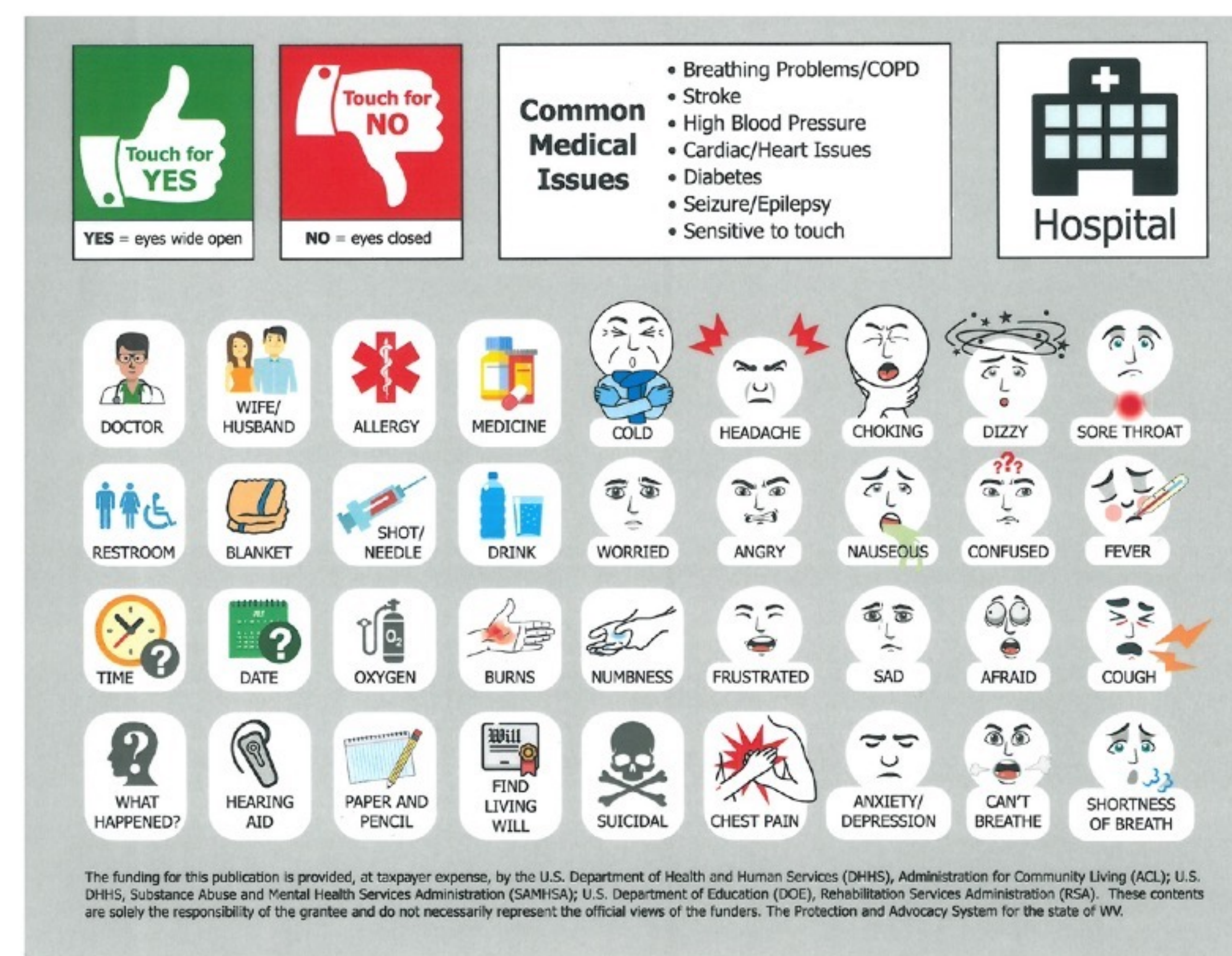
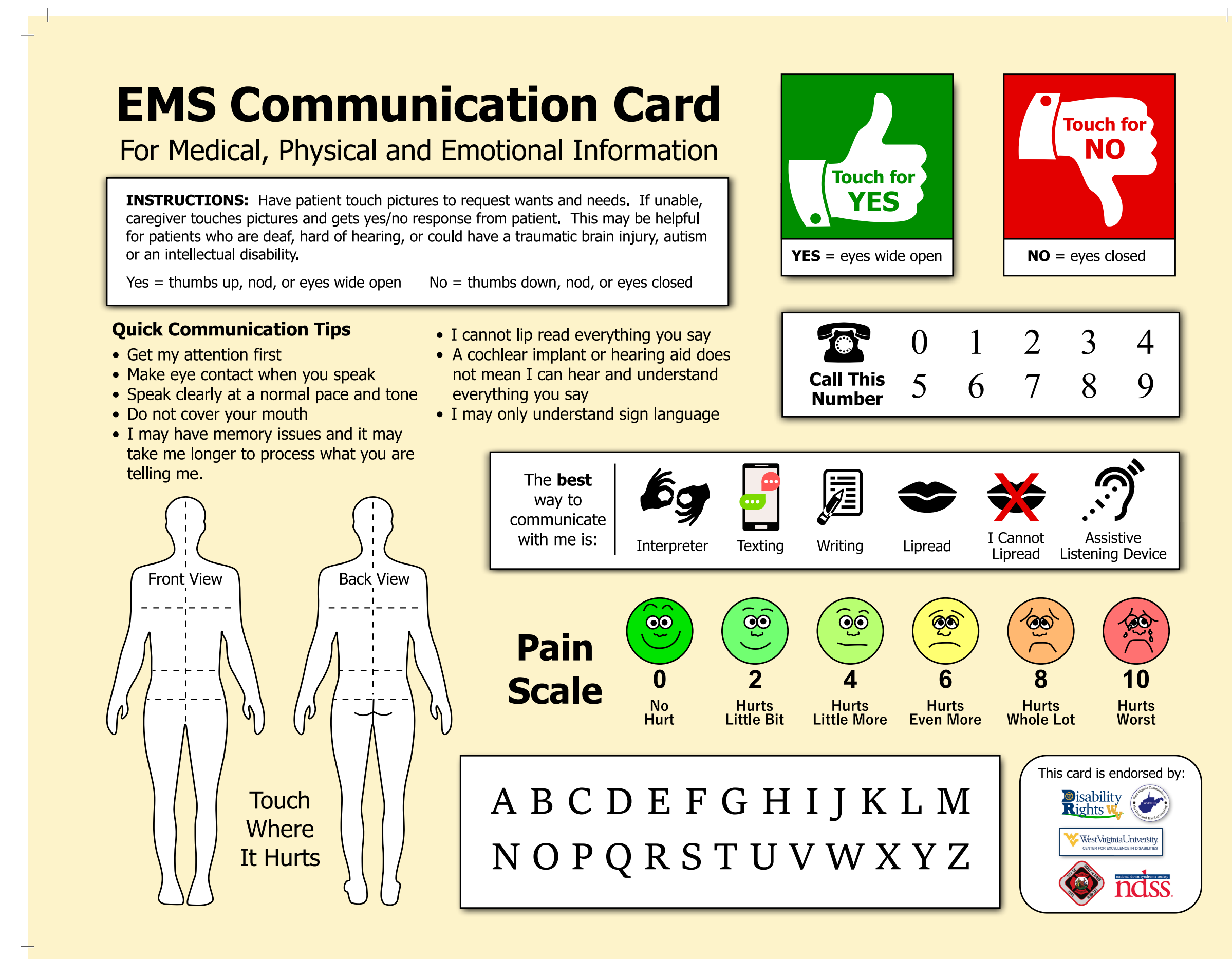
- De-escalation trainings have been implemented in response to controversial police use-of-force incidents¹
 - 64 trainings spanning 4 decades
- Trainings are different in length, dosage, and evaluation of effectiveness²
 - Few (n = 4) incorporated situations involving individuals with disabilities
- Increasing events involving individuals with disabilities and first responders calls for the need to examine materials designed to prevent escalation and are focused on this group.

- The purpose of this study was to re-examine and modify, if needed, materials that could be incorporated into de-escalation efforts.

Methods or Description of Program

- Collaborative reviewed existing materials including:
 - Visor card for individuals who are deaf and/or hard of hearing to communicate with a first responder;
 - Communication board that could be used by a first responder to communicate with an individual with a disability; and
 - Additional materials that could be made available in trainings and/or with website access
- Drafts were reviewed by additional disability network partners with modifications made if identified
- Pilot trainings utilized the modified materials
- Materials were disseminated to individuals, first responders, schools, and other sectors during 2020-2021.

Materials



Modifications

Many of the modifications made to the EMS communication card and visor card were cosmetic; however, some critical updates were incorporated through partner discussions and the review process including:

- Cosmetic changes** included updated dates, broadened audience of first responder groups, adding partners
- Other content changes:**
 - Adding other medical conditions that individuals with disabilities may be experiencing
 - Ensuring disability groups were represented on the card
 - Adding different scenarios that may be experienced by police, EMS, teachers in those respective settings

Dissemination Approach

- Batching materials with information through a website was thought to be the most efficient and effective way to disseminate materials.
- Trainings conducted throughout the state to the various first responder groups began to include the new materials.
- To date, more than 14,878 communication boards and 8,200 visor cards have been disseminated to first responder groups through trainings or by email or other methods to provide the updated information.
- Overall, we have realized that our audience for these materials is broader than we originally anticipated. We have also disseminated these materials to pediatricians, special education teachers, home visitors, and others.
- We recommend sharing the materials broadly with those audiences and then following up with information such as: *How to use the materials effectively, how to expand your reach, and how to ensure you have the materials with you in the time of need.*

References

- Engel, R.S., McManus, H.D. and Herold, T.D., 2020. Does de-escalation training work? A systematic review and call for evidence in police use-of-force reform. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 19(3), pp.721-759.
- Engel, R.S., McManus, H.D. and Herold, T.D., 2019. The deafening demand for de-escalation training: a systematic review and call for evidence in police use of force reform. *Unpublished manuscript*. https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/IACP_UC_De-escalation%20Systematic%20Review.pdf. Accessed December, 4, p.2019.