



LOUISVILLE METRO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
POLICE SURGEON

GREG FISCHER  
MAYOR

ERIKA SHIELDS  
CHIEF OF POLICE

WILLIAM S. SMOCK, M.D.  
POLICE SURGEON

June 21, 2020

Senator Manning  
Judiciary Committee

Re: Senate Bill 90

Dear Chairman Manning and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Strangulation is the application of external pressure applied to the neck, blocking airflow, blood flow or both. Intentionally depriving another human of the ability to breathe or rendering them unconscious in an average of 6.8 seconds by depriving their brain of blood is a serious physical injury which carries the risk of death. Every second the brain goes without oxygenated blood millions of brain cells die and the victim suffers an irreversible brain injury. Pressure on the carotid arteries can damage the arteries resulting in strokes as well as cause death in as little as 62 seconds. It only requires 11 pounds of pressure to completely block blood flow to the brain. Strangulation is the easiest way to inflict brain damage or death in another human being.

A prior history of being a strangler is a strong predictor of what you will do in the future: commit a homicide. The medical literature (Glass et al. 2007) indicates that a man who strangles a women one time is 750% more likely to kill her in the future.

The men who strangle women are also the same men who commit mass murders. These recent mass shootings were committed by men who had a prior history of strangling women:

- Esteba Santiago, Fort Lauderdale Airport, 2 prior domestic strangulation arrests
- Omar Mateen, Pulse Night Club, Orlando Florida, multiple strangulations of his prior wives
- Devin Patrick Kelly, Sutherland Springs Texas Church, history of multiple strangulations of his wife
- Stephen Paddock, Las Vegas Route 91 Harvest music festival, history of committing strangulation on multiple sex workers

The men who strangle women are also the same men who shoot and kill police officers. Two prior studies, one by Chief Craig Kingsbury of the Twin Falls, Idaho Police Department and one by Gerald Findman, Chief Deputy Prosecutor, Riverside, California determined that more than half of the officers shot in their jurisdictions were shot by men with a prior history of strangulation. An analysis being conducted by the Institute for Strangulation Prevention of officers who were shot and killed in the line-of-duty in 2017 and 2018 revealed that more than half of them were shot by men with a prior history of strangulation.

Chairman Manning, I implore you and your committee to look at Senate Bill 90 as "homicide prevention" legislation. Ohio needs to hold accountable those individuals who literally squeeze the life out of another. The act of strangulation with its physical consequences of serious physical injury and the risk of death, deserves to be a high-level felony. Senate Bill 90 will protect future victims of domestic assault and protect Ohio police officers.

Yours sincerely,

*William S. Smock, MD*

William Smock, MD  
Police Surgeon  
Louisville Metro Police Department



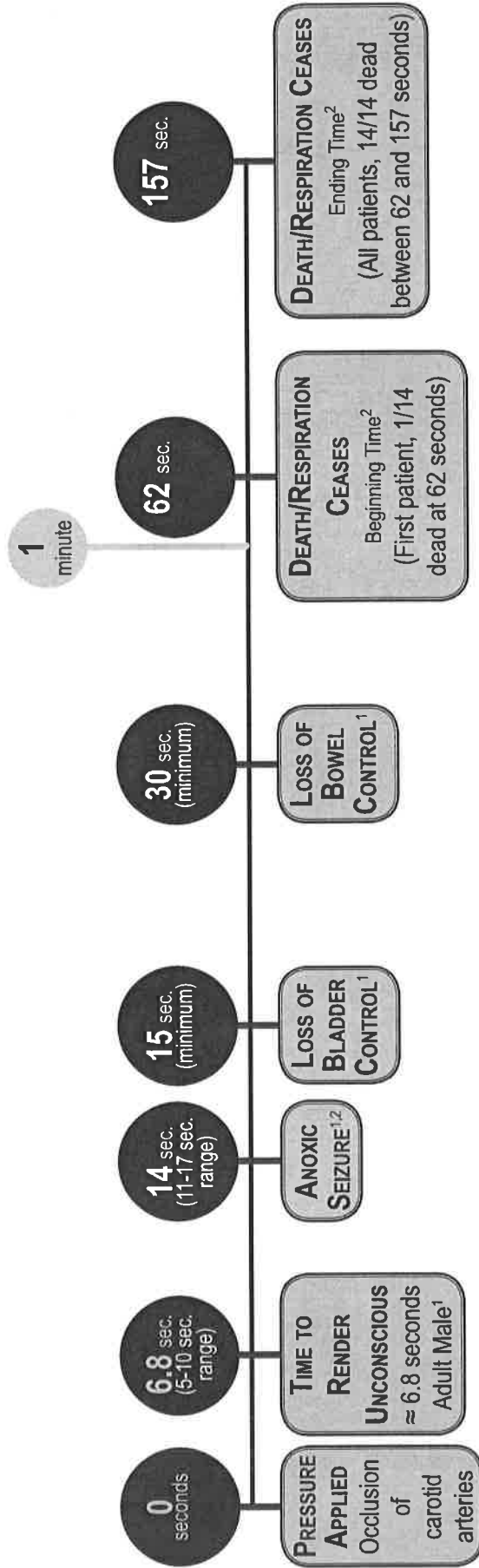
TRAINING INSTITUTE  
ON  
STRANGULATION  
PREVENTION

# PHYSIOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF STRANGULATION

## Occlusion of Arterial Blood Flow: Seconds to Minutes Timeline

Created by: Ruth Carter; Bill Smock, MD; Gael Strack, JD; Yesenia Aceves, BA; Marisol Martinez, MA; and Ashley Peck

v6.18.19



### REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

- 1 Acute Arrest of Cerebral Circulation in Man, Lieutenant Ralph Rossen (MC), U.S.N.R.; Herman Kabat, M.D., Ph.D. Bethesda, MD, and John P. Anderson Red Wing, Minn.; Archives of Neurology and Psychiatry, 1944, Volume 50, #5.
- 2 Anny Sauvagneau, MD, MSc; Romano LaHarpe, MD; David King, MD; Graeme Dowling, MD; Sam Andrews, MD; Sean Kelly, MD; Corinne Ambrosi, MD; Jean-Pierre Guay, PhD; and Vernon J. Geberth, MS; MPS for the Working Group on Human Asphyxia, Forensic Med Pathol 2011;32: 104 – 107.
- 3 Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention: [strangulationtraininginstitute.com](http://strangulationtraininginstitute.com)



[strangulationtraininginstitute.com](http://strangulationtraininginstitute.com)

This project is supported all or in part by Grant No. 2016-TA-AX-K067 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.