



Donna E. Levin Appointed Chair of the Network's Advisory Board



The Network for Public Health Law is excited to announce the appointment of Donna E. Levin as the new Chair of its Advisory Board. With a 45-year career in public health law, Donna is a highly respected leader recognized for her contributions to the field, including receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Law Section of the American Public Health Association. [Read the full announcement.](#)

Law & Policy Insights



We Need to Talk About Maternal Mortality and Gun Violence

Homicide is a leading cause of maternal mortality, and most homicides are committed using firearms. Studies report that, “[w]omen in the US are more likely to be murdered during pregnancy or soon after childbirth than to die from the three leading obstetric causes of maternal mortality.”



Three Federal Tobacco Regulatory Measures Up for Change in 2025

As a result of decades-old marketing tactics, tobacco use is the number one cause of preventable death among African Americans. Two proposed FDA rules aimed at reducing tobacco-related health disparities were expected to take effect in the Spring of 2024. However, on January 24, 2025 the Trump Administration formally announced withdrawal of the proposed rules.



State Public Health Associations Are Key Players in Advancing Anti-Racism Initiatives

Like resolutions passed by state and local governments, anti-racism resolutions by state public health associations acknowledge structural racism and its impact on health. As independent non-profits, state public health associations serve as an organized and active voice for public health in their state.

Resources



How Data and Data Modernization Are Essential to Reducing Health Disparities Rooted in Racism

Data modernization initiatives hold the key not just to better data infrastructure, but to identifying and reducing health disparities. This fact sheet highlights health disparities rooted in racism and explores how public health data modernization is crucial to reducing them.

Webinar



Food Insecurity and Food Safety: Important Policy and Legislative Actions

February 20, 2025 | 12 – 1:15 p.m. CT

States are increasingly adopting “food freedom” laws that exempt retailers like those at farmer’s markets and seaside docks from food safety regulations. At the same time, food waste and food insecurity are growing. Both the safety, and the health and wellness of those living in the U.S., are threatened by these trends. Attend this webinar to learn about the food freedom trend along with law and policy levers that can reduce food waste and address food insecurity.

Recent Webinar Recordings



AI and Public Health: Opportunities and Challenges

This webinar, held January 23, 2025, included representatives from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), the Public Health Informatics Institute, and Dallas County Health and Human Services in a panel presentation on the emerging uses of AI in public health and its significance for public health practitioners. [View the webinar recording.](#)

Announcements

Privacy Officer Peer Group Learning Session: CoE-PHI Training Packages to Understand and Apply 42 CFR Part 2

Wednesday, March 12 | 2 - 3pm CT

Join the Network for a presentation from the [Center of Excellence for Protected Health Information \(CoE-PHI\)](#) who will provide a brief overview of their set of three updated training packages that can be used to train organizational staff on understanding and applying federal health privacy laws that apply to substance use treatment information. Attendees will also have the opportunity to participate in breakout groups for further discussion and connection with their peers. Join the [State and/or Local Privacy Officer Peer Group](#) to receive an invitation to the Peer Group Learning Session.

Worth Sharing

Call for Abstracts: APHA 2025 Annual Meeting and Expo

The call for abstracts for the APHA 2025 Annual Meeting and Expo is open. APHA invites abstract submissions related to the meeting theme, "Making the Public's Health a National Priority," or another public health issue. The submission deadline is **March 28, 2025**.

Job Opportunities

Director, Health Equity - Remote

The Network is seeking a Director to oversee its Health Equity Team, which is committed to advancing health and social justice in communities by using law and policy to improve health outcomes for traditionally under-resourced communities and populations. The Health Equity Director will oversee and manage the team's day to day operations, strategic planning, outreach efforts, capacity building, legal technical assistance, trainings and presentations, and resource development activities.

Tell Us What You're Working On. We're Ready to Help.

Our law and policy experts can help you identify the key considerations central to your unique challenges and provide law and policy pathways you can leverage to make a difference.

[Request Assistance →](#)



Thank you!

Your interest in the work of the Network is important. Together, we can advance law as a tool to improve public health. **Please forward the Network Report and encourage others to [join the Network!](#)**

The Network for Public Health Law provides information and technical assistance on issues related to public health. The legal information and assistance provided in this document does not constitute legal advice or legal representation. For legal advice, readers should consult a lawyer in their state.



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