



SESSION DAYS AND TIMES NOW AVAILABLE! We're excited to share that the preliminary schedule for the 2025 Public Health Law Conference is live, including session times. This is your opportunity to begin planning your experience and identifying the sessions most relevant to your work and interests. [View the Schedule](#) and [Register](#).

Law & Policy Insights



Racial Equity Impact Assessments: A Valuable, Yet Underutilized, Tool to Address Structural Racism

Given the decline in federal support for addressing racial inequities, it is increasingly imperative for state and local governments to confront structural racism through legal and racial equity tools like Racial Equity Impact Assessments (REIAs), which create a requirement that a racial equity impact assessment be conducted for proposed legislation.



Proposed Legislation to Boycott Opioid Manufacturers Would Undermine the Public Health Response to Opioid Overdose Efforts

Several states have proposed legislation restricting the use of state funds to purchase opioid antagonists from entities that have entered into an opioid-related litigation settlement. As they consider whether these laws are in the best interests of both taxpayers and people at risk of overdose, policymakers and advocates should consider the negative effect such laws would likely have on access to lifesaving overdose reversal medications.

Resources



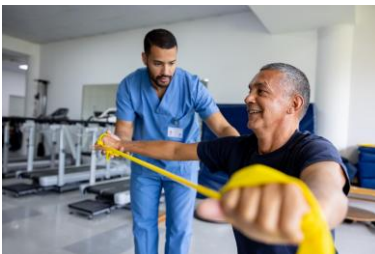
New Administration Breaks Silence on HIPAA Final Reproductive Rule

Proponents of the December 23, 2024 HIPAA Rule to Support Reproductive Health Care Privacy (Rule) say it is vital to ensuring confidentiality of communications between patients and health care providers. Nevertheless, litigation aiming to invalidate the new Rule continues. This factsheet provides an overview of four lawsuits against the Rule and what might be gleaned from these cases about the new administration's position on HIPAA's protections for reproductive health care.



Advancing Health Equity: The Social Determinants of Health

The Network has developed several resources over the years to help aid those working to improve the social determinants of health (SDOH) and create more equitable health outcomes. This collection provides a non-exhaustive overview of many of these resources and categorizes them by SDOH area to allow community-based organizations and public health practitioners more streamlined access.



Chronic Disease and Data Modernization – Opportunities (and Safeguards) For Enhanced Public Health Data Collection

Renewed governmental focus on chronic disease prevention can provide a new impetus to enhance public health data collection for non-communicable diseases. This issue brief reviews how public health authority generally would support an expansion of reporting requirements. However, where jurisdictions gather more individual data about chronic conditions to bolster responsive interventions, they should also ensure appropriate confidentiality safeguards in order to maintain public trust.

Worth Sharing

How *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard College* Fuels Structural Racism and Undercuts Efforts to Achieve Racial

Health Equity

In this article, published in the *Northeastern University Law Review*, Volume-17-Issue-1, Network Deputy Director of Health Equity, April Shaw, discusses how the Supreme Court ruling in *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College* (SFFA) radically departs from the Court's affirmative action jurisprudence, despite its feigned adherence to its prior caselaw. The article also examines how SFFA denies the existence of structural racism while simultaneously reinforcing structural racism and why this case is relevant to those concerned with advancing racial health equity and creating healthy communities. It also provides solutions on how to navigate the current legal landscape by proposing new, more thoughtful, and carefully crafted race neutral methods to support racial health equity and justice.

Tips to Help Public Health Managers Collaborate with Lawyers and Other Partners on Data Use Agreements

Wednesday, May 21 – 12:00 CT

Join Public Health Law Center staff for a webinar on how to collaborate effectively with your attorney on data use agreements for public health surveillance. Speakers will share tips for relationship-building and talk about attorney-client privilege, discuss concepts such as public health authority, touch on enforcing data use agreements, and provide an overview of some relevant laws. Speakers will also share information about additional resources.

Exploring the Impact and Challenges of R/HEIA Implementation: Stories and Insights from State and Municipal Staff

May 15 12:00 PM CT

Join the Network for Public Health Law, the Public Health Law Center, and other partners for a webinar focused on the challenges and opportunities encountered when putting Racial and Health Equity Impact Assessments into practice. State-level and municipal-level examples will include situations in which R/HEIA's influenced the legislative process, lessons learned, best practices, and practical insights for other jurisdictions looking to implement similar processes.

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

Network attorneys can provide consultation and guidance to:

- Identify the ways in which laws and policies may or may not impact a particular project or community; or the potential impact on different populations within a community.
- Provide examples of and compare public health laws or policy strategies from other

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jurisdictions.

- Analyze the legal authority to implement a policy or law, or reforms.
- Apply equity tools to laws and policies.

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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