



The private sector community benefits movement has the potential to have a positive and significant impact on social determinants of health. Public health practitioners and others working to improve the health of their communities should be familiar with this movement and consider opportunities to support these efforts towards the common goal of advancing health equity. [Read the full article.](#)

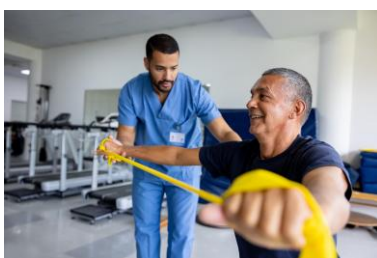
Law & Policy Insights



Nothing to Laugh About: Nitrous Oxide Misuse and the Need for a Public Health Response

There are legitimate and safe uses of the gas nitrous oxide for medical, culinary arts and industrial use. However, recreational use of nitrous oxide is on the rise, due in great part to its popularity on social media. Given the significant short-term and long-term health impacts of nitrous oxide use, public health officials and community organizations should examine their state laws to determine if law change, or just law enforcement, is needed.

Resources



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.



Preventing Medical Debt: State Laws Requiring a Uniform Application for Hospital Financial Assistance Programs

Despite the Affordable Care Act mandate requiring hospitals that participate in federal healthcare programs provide financial assistance policies (FAPs), many patients are unaware or overlook them. The adoption of a uniform application has the potential to increase patient awareness, enrollment, and utilization of FAPs. This 50-state survey provides an overview on the adoption of uniform applications for hospital FAPs and highlights some of the mechanics of these uniform application requirements.

Webinar



Advancing the Social Determinants of Health—The Private Sector Community Benefits Movement

May 15, 2025 | 12 – 1:30 p.m. CT

Community benefit agreements are agreements between companies implementing development projects and community coalitions who aim to procure benefits for their communities, like local hiring requirements and affordable housing. Join us to learn about this growing movement, how it connects to public health, and how it has already helped to advance the social determinants of health.

Conference



2025 Public Health Law Conference: Connection. Collaboration. Community.

Sessions Announced!

Join us to learn, connect, collaborate, and advocate. More than 40 sessions will cover topics essential to protecting the health of our communities. This is a critical time for public health and understanding how to leverage law and policy to not only ensure the continuation of the progress we have made, but also to advance the work we remain committed to is more important than ever. [View the sessions and register.](#)

Worth Sharing

The Opioid Industry Documents Archive: National Symposium 2025

Tuesday, May 6 – Thursday, May 8 Noon – 2:30 PM (ET) • 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM (PT)

The Opioid Industry Documents Archive (OIDA) is a digital archive co-created by the University of California, San Francisco and Johns Hopkins University containing millions of documents from the opioid industry that shed light on the root causes of the opioid crisis. This unique virtual symposium offers a series of complementary panels that demonstrates OIDA's value in addressing fundamental questions of importance to historians, health policy and legal experts, journalists, archivists and people with lived experience. Director of the Network's Harm Reduction Legal Project, Corey Davis, J.D., will be among the panelist in the session: Health Journalism, Law and Policy.

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.

U.S. Judge Halts Trump's Clawback of Public Health Funds

This article, published in The Lancet, discusses a U.S. federal judge's decision to temporarily block the Trump Administration's seizure of more than \$11 billion in already dispersed federal funds for state and local public health programs. The article includes a discussion with Network Western Region Director Allison Winnike, J.D., regarding the "devastating impact" the clawbacks have already had on state and local public health programs, and the serious potential repercussions in light of the current measles outbreak in Texas.

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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