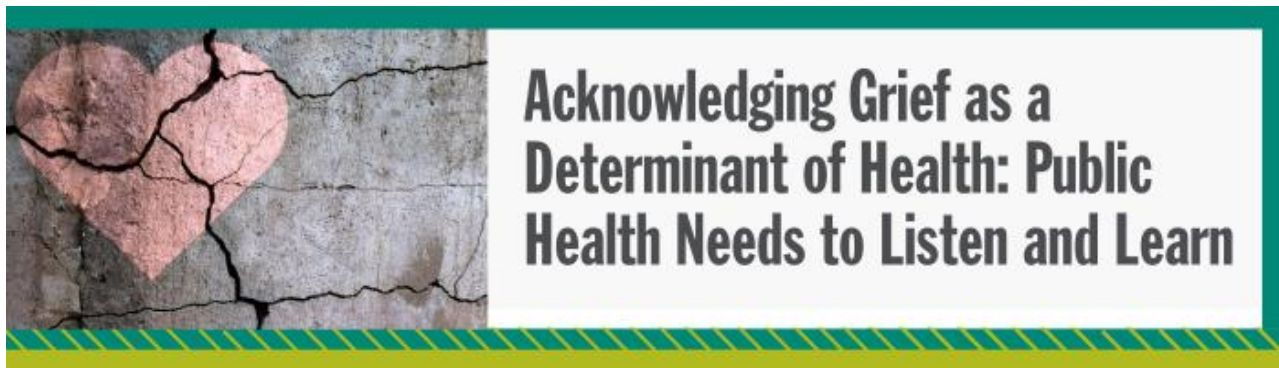




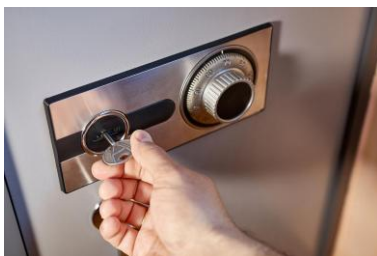
Grief is a near-universal human experience, yet it remains markedly absent from public health discourse and infrastructure. Instead, public health systems tend to treat bereavement as a private, individual matter rather than a legitimate population health concern. As we reconsider the broader mental health landscape, we must ask: What would it look like for public health systems to fully acknowledge grief in its cultural complexity? [Read the full article here.](#)

Law & Policy Insights



Grief, Loss, and the Gaps in Support Across Public Health

This special audio release for Mental Health Awareness Month explores the human impact of gaps in support across public health. Grounded in lived experience, the conversation surfaces how grief and the loss of a loved one to overdose are too often met with stigma and fragmented care. The discussion underscores that grief is not only an individual experience but also a broader public health concern, calling for greater attention and alternative forms of care.



Preventing Harm to Children: Safe Storage Laws for Firearms

Gun violence, accidental and intentional, is the number one killer of children and teens in the U.S. While access to firearms in the home is a significant contributing factor, the majority of U.S. gun owners do not practice safe firearm storage. There are no federal laws requiring the safe storage of guns. However, several states have passed Safe Storage laws, which are associated with significantly reduced risk of youth injury and death from firearms.

Resources



School Entry Vaccines

While recent shifts in federal leadership raise concerns about the future of national immunization efforts, the authority and responsibility to maintain vaccine mandates largely rest with state and local governments. This fact sheet outlines how states are well-positioned to uphold and adapt their vaccination policies to protect public health, regardless of federal changes.



Federal Regulation of Fluoride in Drinking Water

The Department of Health and Human Services has announced that “the Trump White House will advise all U.S. water systems to remove fluoride from public water.” Removing drinking water fluoridation risks diminishing oral health overall and exacerbating existing oral health disparities. This fact sheet discusses the federal government’s power to regulate fluoride in drinking water and the role of state and local government in this space.



Raw Milk Regulation

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, has indicated that it may lift the FDA’s ban on the interstate sale of raw milk and introduce voluntary raw milk standards for states to adopt. This fact sheet provides a background on raw milk and potential federal regulatory changes, along with strategies for states to prepare for this change and minimize consumer risk.



Equity Concerns and Recommendations to Support Fair Practices in Sharing and Using Child Welfare Data

This issue brief explores the relationships between child welfare, public health, data sharing, and racial and income disparities. It includes recommendations for agencies, community partnerships, and policy researchers to incorporate into the development of data sharing and use practices to reduce the risk of further perpetuating harm against vulnerable communities.

Webinar



Federal Actions and Their Impact on Harm Reduction, Public Health Emergencies, and Climate Change: A Preview of the 2025 Public Health Law Conference

June 26, 2025 | 12 – 1:30 p.m. CT

Trump administration Executive Orders and dramatic cuts to the public health workforce, programs, and infrastructure, as well as policy changes regarding public health priorities have serious and far-reaching implications. This webinar previews two of the many sessions from the upcoming 2025 Public Health Law Conference that focus on the impact of ongoing changes at the federal level. Presenters will discuss the current legal landscape in three critical areas.

Conference



2025 Public Health Law Conference: Connection. Collaboration. Community

Join us at the 2025 Public Health Law Conference 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.](#)

Please note that our conference hotel room block is filling fast so we encourage you to register and book your hotel.

Worth Sharing

Act for Public Health Briefing: Federal Actions and DEIA Initiatives

In this second in a series of Briefings from Act for Public Health, of which the Network is a partner, Katie Hannon Michel, senior attorney at ChangeLab Solutions, and Donya Khadem, Equal Protection Initiative counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, provided an overview of executive orders attacking diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) initiatives and explored how federal agencies have begun to implement them. They also discussed ongoing legal challenges to these orders, as well as strategies and considerations for public health practitioners as they navigate

federal actions and their fallout. You can view the recording [here](#) and learn more about the Act for Public Health Briefings [here](#).

NALBOH 2025 Annual Conference

October 6-8 Savannah, Georgia

The National Association of Local Boards of Health annual conference draws health officers and other public health professionals from around the country to learn from one another, develop partnerships and share solutions for issues affecting state and local communities. Early bird registration ends July 15.

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

REQUEST
ASSISTANCE

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 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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