

2025
PUBLIC HEALTH LAW
CONFERENCE

September 16-18, 2025
Hyatt Regency
Lake Washington, Seattle Southport
Seattle, WA

Closing Plenary
Bridging Public Health and Community Needs
Through Strong Partnerships

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Community based organizations (CBOs) are at the forefront of efforts to create positive health outcomes for communities of color and others who experience structural harms. Join us at the Closing Plenary of our 2025 Public Health Law Conference to hear from three leaders whose CBOs are working to advance health justice in their communities on how to best partner and build trust with communities and create partnerships and collaborations between public health agencies, CBOs, and others. [Learn more and register.](#)

Law & Policy Insights



Drug Checking is Effective: More States Should Stop Criminalizing It

The illicit drug supply in the U.S. is dangerously contaminated, with widespread fentanyl adulteration one high-profile example. States and municipalities interested in promoting evidence-based overdose prevention strategies should enact favorable drug checking policies, and they should consider a comprehensive approach, like a recently enacted law in California, to most effectively resolve existing barriers.



U.S. Funding Cuts and Their Impact Worldwide: Insights from the Harm Reduction International Conference

At the end of April, harm reductionists from across the globe came together in Bogotá, Colombia to attend the Harm Reduction International Conference. The impacts of U.S. funding cuts to international harm reduction programs and the continued negative effects of the “War on Drugs” have many in the harm reduction

field alarmed.

Resources



State Laws Regulating Access to Abortion Care in Carceral Facilities

Pregnancy, giving birth, and being postpartum while incarcerated are linked to negative health impacts. One policy that supports the health of pregnant people who are incarcerated is mandating access to safe and effective abortion care for those who do not want to be pregnant or give birth while incarcerated. This issue brief examines current state laws regarding access to abortion in carceral facilities in the states where abortion is generally available by law.

Webinar



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

TODAY 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.

Worth Sharing

Act for Public Health Briefing: Federal Actions & LGBTQ+ Communities

In this third in a series of Briefings from Act for Public Health, of which the Network is a partner, Wesley Hartman, senior attorney at ChangeLab Solutions, and Christy Mallory, Roberta A. Conroy Interim Executive Director and legal director at the Williams Institute shared an overview of executive orders attacking LGBTQ+ communities and explained the impacts of other federal actions, such as cuts to Medicaid and SNAP. They'll also discussed legal challenges to many of these actions, along with strategies to help public health practitioners navigate the federal landscape. You can view the

recording [here](#) and learn more about the Act for Public Health Briefings [here](#).

Guidance For Journalists Reporting On How The U.S. Public Health System Is Changing

At Health Journalism 2025, a panel featuring Network for Public Health Law Co-Executive Director Quang ("Q") Dang, offered guidance for reporting on changes in the U.S. public health system. Panelists emphasized the often-overlooked role of public health, from water safety to emergency preparedness, and raised concerns about federal funding cuts, staff reductions, and restructuring within HHS that may weaken the system. They encouraged journalists to highlight the real-world impact of service disruptions, include voices from local health departments and affected communities, and track shifts in state and federal roles.

Lessons From the Health Sector on Verifying Citizenship

The Network for Public Health Law is proud to be a co-signer of a new report from the Institute for Responsive Government Action: *Lessons From the Health Sector on Verifying Citizenship: Why Document-Based Requirements Don't Work and How Technology Can Help*. The report draws on lessons from Medicaid and health care access to examine the harmful impacts of document-based citizenship verification, like those proposed in the SAVE Act (H.R. 22). Co-signers include the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH), the Network for Public Health Law, the Minnesota Public Health Association, and the Society for Public Health Education.

Public Health Authority Dataset

This Collection from the Center for Public Health Law Research includes datasets that capture laws and policies related to the authority to act for the public's health. The datasets in this collection provide an overview of laws that limit, expand or reallocate the authority of a governor, state health agency, or state health official to act during emergencies and otherwise.

Ending Commercial Tobacco Sales in California

"Endgame" retail sales policies are designed to eliminate the sale of tobacco products in a community and seek to end the commercial tobacco epidemic by permanently changing the structural, political, and social dynamics that sustain it. Building on the successful sales bans in Manhattan Beach and Beverly Hills, this new model ordinance from the Public Health Law Center offers California cities and counties guidance in adopting a comprehensive, equity-focused retail endgame policy, and could serve as an example for communities in other states.

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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