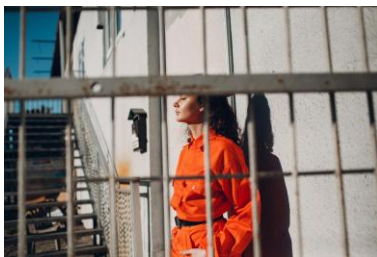




This signature plenary session offers a fast-paced, wide-ranging look at the most significant legal and policy developments that shaped public health over the past year. Key topics will include federal and state efforts to redefine public health authority; reproductive and gender-affirming care; climate change and environmental justice; anti-racism and equity in health law; harm reduction and mental health reform; and the public health workforce's evolving role in navigating polarized legal terrain. [Learn more and register.](#)

Law & Policy Insights



Bleeding Behind Bars: Addressing Menstrual Equity in Carceral Facilities

Menstrual health is a major area of reproductive health often overshadowed for the estimated 79.8 percent of those in carceral facilities of reproductive age. For some, menstrual hygiene products are easily accessible, whereas for others it is a constant struggle. Meaningful progress toward comprehensive menstrual equity for all incarcerated individuals remains limited and inconsistent across jurisdictions.

Resources



Statewide Laws to Protect Workers from Extreme Heat

Extreme heat is the number one cause of weather-related death in the United States. While legal protections from extreme heat exposure for workers are essential to protecting health and remedying existing inequities in heat related illness and death for the U.S. workforce, such standards are inconsistent across the nation. This resource includes a summary of state laws addressing extreme heat for workers.



Food Policy Councils: Community-Based Collaboration to Inform Food Security Law and Policy

Food Policy Councils (FPC) bring various stakeholders together to address food system issues through the creation and implementation of local, regional, state, and tribal policies and are an effective step toward developing community-informed, equitable food systems and access policies. This resource highlights two successful FPCs.



Demand Responsive Transportation to Increase Food Security

Local governments and community-based organizations seeking to improve public health through increasing access to nutritious food should consider the role of transportation policy. Demand Responsive Transit (DRT) is an alternative to public transportation that allows users to utilize smaller vans or buses without any fixed schedule or route. This resource includes case studies on DRT that could be applied in healthy food priority areas to increase access to healthy foods.

Webinar Recording



Food Insecurity and Food Safety: Policy and Legislative Actions

This webinar, held on February 20, discussed important policy and legislative actions regarding food freedom laws, which exempt some retailers from food safety regulations with the intent to expand food access; and efforts to address the more than 100 million tons of food waste generated each year. View the webinar recording [here](#).

Announcements

Legal Advocates for Harm Reduction Convening

September 19th, Seattle, Washington

Join the Legal Advocates for Harm Reduction for a special in-person convening following the conclusion of the [2025 Public Health Law Conference](#). Legal Advocates for Harm Reduction is a group of attorneys, legal professionals, and other advocates committed to harm reductionist principles and using the law to help harm reduction programs and people who use drugs. The convening is designed to build relationships and a legal workforce better equipped to respond to legal issues facing harm reduction programs and their clients, staff, and allies. The convening is free but registration is required. [Learn more and register](#).

Worth Sharing

Call for APHA Law Section Award Nominations

Each year the American Public Health Association (APHA) Law Section recognizes leaders who work at the intersection of law and public health, including research, teaching and mentoring, practice and advocacy. The Law Section seeks nominations for the following awards: Lifetime Achievement Award in Public Health Law; Early Career Award for Excellence in Public Health Law; Jennifer Robbins Award for the Practice of Public Health Law. Deadline for nominations is **August 29, 2025**. Nominations can be made by submitting this [form](#), or by contacting [Stacie Kershner](#).

Act for Public Health Briefing: Public Health Surveillance & Data Collection

In this sixth in a series of Briefings from Act for Public Health, of which the Network is a partner, Manel Kappagoda, senior staff attorney at the Public Health Law Center, and Cody Venzke, senior policy counsel at the ACLU, provided an overview of Executive Order 14243, "Stopping Waste, Fraud, and Abuse by Eliminating Information Silos," directing the consolidation of data across federal agencies. They discussed related legal challenges to data consolidation by federal agencies and shared strategies and considerations for public health practitioners. You can view the recording [here](#) and learn more about the Act for Public Health Briefings [here](#).

2025 National Vaccine Law Conference

September 11–12 Virtual

The 2025 National Vaccine Law Conference will offer a deep dive into the evolving landscape of vaccine law, with sessions designed for public health law professionals, attorneys, and advocates. Attendees will be eligible for *up to 6.0 CLE credits*, and registration discounts are available for educators, government employees, nonprofit professionals, military personnel, and students.

NALBOH 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.

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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