

2025

PUBLIC HEALTH LAW
CONFERENCE

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

Keynote Speaker

Skye Perryman

President and CEO
Democracy Forward



Skye Perryman, President and CEO of Democracy Forward and a 2025 TIME100 honoree, will deliver the keynote address, "Can We Thrive Together? Health, Access, and Equity in a New Paradigm," at the 2025 Public Health Law Conference. A nationally recognized lawyer and leader, Perryman has advanced landmark litigation and policy efforts to defend democratic values, expand access to essential services, and promote equity in health and beyond. [Learn more.](#)

Law & Policy Insights



The July 2025 Executive Order and the State of Harm Reduction in the U.S.

The Trump Administration's recent Executive Order, "*Ending Crime and Disorder on America's Streets*," raised fears that all harm reduction activities would lose federal funding. However, lifesaving tools like naloxone, drug-checking supplies, and sharps disposal kits remain eligible for support. Still, the administration's stance reinforces a dangerous narrative: separating "acceptable" overdose interventions from the core principles of harm reduction, which affirm the dignity and humanity of PWUD.



Losing Data, Losing Ground: Politicizing Science Undermines Youth Mental Health

States rely on data from the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) to identify and monitor troubling trends in adolescent health and develop programmatic and policy interventions. In January, YRBSS data were among many federal data resources pulled from public access in response to vague and

scientifically unsupported executive orders signed by President Trump. The result is a dangerous blind spot at precisely the moment when schools, health agencies, and policymakers need clear information the most.

Law & Policy Spotlight



Vaccine Policy

Recent actions and events at the federal level regarding vaccine policy have serious implications for efforts to control the spread of communicable diseases. In the Network's recent webinar, [Federal and State Attacks on Vaccine Policy](#) Allison N. Winnike, J.D., Director of the Network's Western Region, discusses current actions limiting vaccine research and changes in federal vaccine recommendations. If you have a question about your jurisdiction's authority related to vaccine policy or other questions, contact [Allison](#) for a consultation. Allison and other legal and policy experts at the Network can help state and local public health authorities with actions they can take to help protect their communities.

Resources



School Entry Vaccines

School-entry vaccination requirements have proven to be one of the most effective public health tools for reducing childhood illness, preventing premature deaths, and controlling the spread of infectious diseases across populations. 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.



State Legal Requirements for Parental Consent for School-Based Surveys

School-based student health surveys are a proven tool in identifying emerging problems in youth physical, behavioral, and mental health and wellbeing. However, they have come under scrutiny in recent years with some asserting that parents were losing control of their children's educational curriculum, materials,

and activities (like the school-based health surveys). Some states now require active consent for all surveys administered to students. This resource examines state laws regarding parental consent and student surveys.



Law and Policy Pathways to Addressing Rising Youth Suicide Rates

There is broad consensus that suicide risk among youth is multifaceted. Youths may also fall within multiple at-risk populations. As such, effective suicide prevention strategies require a multi-dimensional, holistic, and intersectional approach. This resource can assist in decision-making processes and resource allocation to reduce youth suicide.

Webinar Recording



Federal and State Attacks on Vaccine Policy

In this webinar, held on August 28, Network Western Region Director Allison Winnike and Dorit R. Reiss, Professor of Law at UC Law San Francisco offered the latest updates on vaccine policy changes moving through the executive, legislative, and judiciary branches and the implications of these changes on reducing the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases. View the 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

APHA 2025 Annual Meeting & Expo

November 2-5, Washington, D.C.

Each year, APHA's Annual Meeting and Expo convenes about 12,000 public health professionals and partners from around the world to engage, collaborate and grow. The Annual Meeting brings together a broad spectrum of professionals across a variety of disciplines.

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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