



Year in Review: Network Resources and Webinars

It was a challenging year for public health. Agencies and organizations grappled with changes in federal policies that limited access to vaccines, stifled equity and inclusion efforts, weakened data privacy protections, and more. Throughout the year, the Network focused on providing understanding and clarity on the law and policy issues that were emerging. This year-end edition of the Network Report highlights some of the resources and webinars we developed to provide insight, guidance, and support to those navigating the difficult law and policy environment in 2025. The Network will continue to serve as a trusted partner to the public health community, and we look forward to supporting your important work in 2026.

Resources: Environment, Climate and Health



Local Cooling Requirements to Protect Individuals from the Health Effects of Extreme Heat in Living Spaces

As temperatures rise due to climate change, local cities and counties are considering ordinances that require cooling equipment to be installed or temperatures be maintained in rental dwelling units to prevent people from suffering the health effects of extreme heat where they live. This resource summarizes some key features of selected local ordinances.



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.

Resources: Executive Order Watch



Immigration Executive Actions and Public Health

This resource provides an overview of several Trump Administration immigration-related executive actions and identifies legal challenges. It highlights how these and other anti-immigrant efforts harm the public's health and deepen health inequities. Finally, it provides answers to frequent questions on implications for health departments, community-based organizations, and others navigating the changing landscape.



Recent Executive Orders Threaten Climate Change Mitigation Efforts and Public Health Goals

The lawfulness of the president's executive orders and executive actions have been challenged in lawsuits across a range of topics, with success in a substantial majority of cases. Nevertheless, implementation of these executive orders, and related executive actions, is already having harmful effects on public health, and could cause irrevocable harm. This resource discusses the potential impact of recent executive orders on climate change and public health goals.



Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Announces Policy of Sharing Medicaid Data with Department of Homeland Security

On November 25, 2025, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced a policy of sharing CMS data with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for immigration enforcement purposes. This fact sheet provides an overview of the policy, the data at risk, and current legal challenges.

Resources: Health Equity



2021-2022 Racial Equity Dataset: A Searchable Collection of Laws Related to Racial Equity

In the wake of the renewed racial justice movement in 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic, many jurisdictions across the country enacted laws to address health disparities and advance racial equity, while others enacted laws that may impede these goals. This searchable database features the laws that were enacted, and that were still in effect on December 31, 2022, and provides insights into the legislative efforts shaping public health and racial equity across the nation.



Legal Frameworks to Improve Health Equity Through Community Information Exchanges

A Community Information Exchanges (CIE™) is a community governed network of health and social service providers that can facilitate data sharing among healthcare, social services, and community-based organizations to facilitate more holistic and coordinated care, and advance public health. This resource examines common features of legal frameworks developed to facilitate the flow of information in CIEs around the country.



Advancing Health Equity: The Social Determinants of Health

The Network for Public Health Law has developed several resources over the years to help aid those working to improve the social determinants of health (SDOH) and create more equitable health outcomes. This collection provides a non-exhaustive overview of many of these resources and categorizes them by SDOH area to allow community-based organizations and public health practitioners more streamlined access.



How Data and Data Modernization Are Essential to Reducing Health Disparities Rooted in Racism

Data modernization initiatives hold the key not just to better data infrastructure, but to identifying and reducing health disparities. This fact sheet highlights health disparities rooted in racism and explores how public health data modernization is crucial to reducing them.

Resources: Maternal and Child Health



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.

Resources: Mechanisms for Advancing Public Health



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.



Community Power Building: King County, Washington

Community power building can help pave the way to better health outcomes by targeting the underlying conditions that shape the social determinants of health. This policy brief discusses what community building is and focuses on local community power building opportunities, highlighting laws, local policies, organizations, and programs that may be leveraged by community groups in King County, Washington.

Resources: Reproductive Health and Equity



New Administration Breaks Silence on HIPAA Final Reproductive Rule

Proponents of the December 23, 2024 HIPAA Rule to Support Reproductive Health Care Privacy (Rule) say it is vital to ensuring confidentiality of communications between patients and health care providers. Nevertheless, litigation aiming to invalidate the new Rule continues. This factsheet provides an overview of four lawsuits against the Rule and what might be gleaned from these cases about the new administration's position on HIPAA's protections for reproductive health care.



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.



Restrictions on the Right to Travel for Out-of-State Abortion Care

Measures intended to restrict the ability of patients to travel to another jurisdiction to obtain abortion care have been introduced in legislative bodies across the country. These efforts generally fall into two categories: travel bans and abortion trafficking laws. Additionally, other actors, particularly state Attorneys General, have weaponized existing laws to impede patients' access to out-of-state abortions. This resource outlines and explains the proposed and passed provisions designed to deter interstate travel for abortion care.

Webinar Recordings



AI and Public Health: Opportunities and Challenges

There are many opportunities for the public health community to leverage AI to advance public health goals and health equity. AI also presents challenges for public health. This webinar explores the emerging uses of AI in public health and its significance for public health practitioners.



Food Insecurity and Food Safety: Important Policy and Legislative Actions

States are increasingly adopting “food freedom” laws that exempt retailers like those at farmer’s markets and seaside docks from food safety regulations. At the same time, food waste and food insecurity are growing. Both the safety, and the health and wellness of those living in the U.S., are threatened by these trends. This webinar provides information on the food freedom trend along with law and policy levers that can reduce food waste and address food insecurity.



Unpacking Racial and Health Equity Impact Assessments: Legislation, Tools, and Strategies for Community-Centered Change

This webinar focuses on the design and implementation of racial and health equity impact assessment (R/HEIA) laws across the U.S. It offers insights, tools, and recommendations for the design and use of R/HEIAs to create more equitable health outcomes in communities.



Public Health Under the New Administration: Examining State and Local Authority to Regulate Raw Milk, Water Fluoridation, and School-Entry Vaccines

This webinar highlights three important public health issues on which federal, state, and local regulation are intertwined and that may be subject to change based on representations from federal officials under the new federal administration.



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

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. This webinar provides information on this growing movement, how it connects to public health, and how it has already helped to advance the social determinants of health.



Federal Actions and Their Impact on Harm Reduction, Public Health Emergencies, and Climate Change

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 discusses the impact of ongoing changes at the federal level and the current legal landscape in three critical areas.



Federal and State Attacks on Vaccine Policy

This webinar discusses the latest update 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.



Reproductive Health Care: Anticipated Changes and Potential Impacts Under the New Administration

This webinar offers an overview of changes in law and policy that impact access to reproductive health care directly or through indirect measures that deter pregnant people from seeking care, including changes to Title X and Medicaid funding and the elimination of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Rule to Support Reproductive Health Care Privacy.



Counting Everyone, Counting Correctly: Case Studies in Data Disaggregation, Inclusive Data Visualization, and Reducing Misclassification of American Indian and Alaska Native Populations

This webinar introduces the foundational principles of data disaggregation and highlighting how inclusive practices can improve the visibility of health disparities and prevent the statistical erasure of small or historically marginalized groups, particularly American Indian and Alaska Native populations.

Announcements

Network Holiday Closing

The Network will be closed for the holidays from December 24 through January 1. Please note that any email correspondence with Network staff or requests for a consultation via our website will be delayed until after this time.

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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