



## A Humanitarian Crisis Unfolds at Home: Violent and Unlawful Immigration Enforcement Requires Us All to Respond

A Message from the Network's Executive Director and Executive Managing Director

What's happening in Minnesota right now is spurring a nationwide examination of immigration enforcement policy, public safety, civil rights, and government accountability. It is a moral reckoning for our country and a deep, collective threat to individual, community, and public health. The Network has been closely following immigration executive actions and their health impacts, and we remain committed to supporting this work. We offer our expertise as a resource to those navigating these challenges. [Read the full statement.](#)

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### Law & Policy Insights



## State Laws in Support of Drug Checking Programs Can Help Reduce Overdose

Drug checking services have been shown to reduce the risk of overdose by providing people with information on what is in drugs bought outside of pharmacies. Many state drug paraphernalia laws have been changed to increase access to drug checking equipment but are still silent on the use of that equipment. Changing state law to explicitly authorize comprehensive drug checking services could allow this important public health intervention to make a greater impact in reducing overdose death and drug-related harm.

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## Resources



### The Public Health Impact of the 2025 Federal Executive Orders

Since Donald Trump took office on January 20, 2025, he has signed a series of Executive Orders (EOs), many of which impact public health. A hallmark of these orders is that they are highly unpredictable and often create swift and wide-reaching policy shifts that are often harmful to the health of communities. Examples include discriminatory immigration policies, the termination of DEI programs, limiting access to care for LGBTQ+ communities, and cuts in federal programs and workforce. The long-term ripple effects of these actions threaten to reshape public health and ultimately destabilize the public health system. This resource compiles the 2025 EOs most relevant to the public health space through a lens of Health in All Policies.

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## Law & Policy Spotlight



### Environment, Climate and Health

The Network's recent webinar, [A Healthy Union: How States and Regions Can Lead on Environmental Health and Climate Change](#), highlighted groundbreaking state environmental health laws and policies. The webinar was led by Network Director of Climate and Health, Jill Krueger, J.D. Network attorneys are available to consult on these and other issues at no cost. If you have questions about how laws and policies can be leveraged to help mitigate the health impacts of climate change, contact [Jill](#) for more information.

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## Webinar



### **Beyond Borders: Global Legal Innovations for Countering "Parental Rights" and "Prenatal Personhood" in the U.S. Abortion Context**

February 19, 2026 | 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CT

Join us for a webinar examining the uptick in efforts to curtail young people's autonomy in abortion decision-making in the United States through legal strategies grounded in "parental rights" and "prenatal personhood;" and how advocates and decision-makers in other countries have successfully relied on innovative arguments to push back against similar attacks.

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## Worth Sharing

### **Comprehensive Review of State Laws that Govern the Distribution and Possession of Drug Use Equipment in the United States**

Network attorneys Corey Davis, Michael Abrams, Ashleigh Dennis, and Amy Judd Lieberman, along with their co-author Czarina N. Behrends, recently published this paper in the *International Journal of Drug Policy*. The paper discusses the significant amount of drug-related harm, including high rates of both overdose mortality and harms, associated with lack of access to new drug use equipment such as syringes and pipes. They note the wide variation in laws governing the operation of syringe services programs (which are permitted in some form in 40 states but often highly regulated) and suggest that states evaluate and, where indicated, remove legal barriers to these supplies.

### **Call for Abstracts: APHA 2026 Annual Meeting & Expo**

The call for abstracts for the APHA 2026 Annual Meeting and Expo is open. APHA invites abstract submissions on the 2026 theme: "Together We Thrive: Health Across the Lifespan," or another current or emerging public health issue. The submission deadline is **Tuesday, March 31, 2026**.

### **Tell Us What You're Working On.**

### **We're Ready to Help.**

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

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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.*



**Our Contact Information**  
**Network for Public Health Law**  
7101 York Avenue South, #270  
Edina, MN 55435

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