



Tracking the Public Health Impacts of Federal Executive Orders

The Network's new public database documents how federal actions in 2025 are affecting public health.

Donald Trump signed 230 executive orders (EOs) last year, a good number of which impacted critical areas of public health. What occurred in 2025 were sustained, high-velocity disruptions to the infrastructure that makes public health policy possible. As expected, these disruptions were not evenly distributed and landed most heavily on communities already experiencing the greatest health inequities. The Network's newly launched Executive Order Watch tracks the broad range of public health issues affected by EOs, including equity, the environment, immigration and reproductive health. [Read the full article.](#)

Law & Policy Insights



How Privacy Officers Move the Needle on Health Equity and Dismantling Racist Systems

Whether as data-use facilitator, gatekeeper, trust builder, or steward, the privacy officer plays a key role in effective data

governance that safeguards the privacy of community members, while promoting the effective use of public health data to reduce disparities and dismantle racist systems.

Resources



Michigan Laws Related to Right of a Minor to Obtain Health Care without Consent or Knowledge of Parents

This resource summarizes the rights of minors to consent to various types of health care without the consent or knowledge of their parents. It also covers whether the law permits information concerning the minor's health care to be shared with the parent. Though the details of this document apply only in Michigan, the legal provisions likely have counterparts in other states.



Summary of Constitutional Protections for Harm Reduction Programs

Harm reduction programs and clients face ongoing threats from law enforcement in many areas of the country. Additionally, programs and clients increasingly fear action by federal immigration officers. This resource provides an overview of relevant laws, including the legal rights that apply to individuals and organizations relative to drug paraphernalia and drug possession laws, and rights under the 4th and 5th Amendments.

Webinar



The Public Health Impacts of the 2025 Executive Orders: An Overview of the Network's Executive Order Tracker

March 26, 12:00 – 1:30 CT

Join us to learn about the Network's new resource, [*Executive Order Watch: Public Health Impact of the 2025 Federal Executive Orders*](#), which tracks the 2025 executive orders and related actions in areas including equity, reproductive health, the Federal MAHA initiative, immigration, and voting.

Announcements

A Breach or Not a Breach: Complying with the HIPAA Breach Notification Rule in the Public Health Setting

March 11, 2026 | 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. CT

Responding to a potential breach of protected health information (PHI) is one of the most critical and time-sensitive responsibilities faced by privacy officers. Join this Network Privacy Officer Peer Group Peer to hear from presenters who will outline the requirements of the HIPAA Breach Notification Rule and discuss both the legal obligations and practicalities of investigating a potential breach event involving PHI, including conducting interviews, mitigating harm, conducting breach risk assessments, making breach determinations, and providing necessary notifications. If you currently work in a privacy role within a state, local, Tribal, or territorial health department, or another governmental health authority, you can request to join the Privacy Officer Peer Group and receive a registration link, [here](#).

Worth Sharing

Legal and Ethical Dimensions of Austerity

Mar. 10 | 2–3 p.m. CT

Many state, local, tribal, and territorial health departments have long navigated revenue volatility, expiring time-limited funds, and structural underinvestment. This webinar is the second in the University of Minnesota Center for Public Health Systems' Fiscal Austerity [series](#), which is designed to provide practical strategies for protecting communities when budgets tighten. In this webinar, Network Deputy Director of Special Projects, Darlene Huang Briggs, J.D., will discuss the legal and ethical considerations for fiscal austerity, including review of legal mandates for minimum service provision. Register [here](#).

AI Technologies & Public Health Law and Practice

Mar. 12 | 11:00 a.m. CT

Network Deputy Director of the Mid-States Region, Meghan Mead, J.D., will be among the presenters on this APHA Law Section webinar. The webinar will address a range of issues related to AI in public health practice, from equity in AI-driven public health practice to emerging legal risks and considerations that public health departments will need to assess. Speakers will highlight both the promise and the challenges of integrating AI responsibly into public health law and practice. Register [here](#).

NACCHO 360 Early Bird Registration

Registration is open for the NACCHO 360 Annual Meeting to be held July 14-17 in Louisville, Kentucky and virtually. This year's theme, "Racing Forward, Swinging Big: United for Public Health's Future," calls on the public health community to stay focused, swing with purpose, and race toward a future built on innovation, resilience, and access for all. **Early bird registration is available through March 31, 2026** and NACCHO is offering the option to register now, and pay later.

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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