



Mifepristone Litigation Updates and the Status of Federal Regulation of Abortion Medication

Lack of access to safe, legal abortion care increases maternal and infant morbidity and mortality and has dire implications for pregnant people with acute or chronic medical conditions. In 2000, the FDA approved mifepristone as a safe, effective abortion option involving a regimen of oral medication to terminate a pregnancy. Abortion medications like mifepristone have become more widely used, particularly as a lower-cost and more accessible option for people living in abortion-restrictive states. As a result, there has been an increase in efforts by abortion-prohibitive states to ban abortion medication through state law and through litigation in federal courts. This article highlights how—between state laws, reconsideration of federal regulations, and myriad lawsuits—the legal issues surrounding abortion access remain persistent and have grown in dimension. [Read the full article.](#)

Law & Policy Insights



[An Analysis of Legal Considerations for Sharing Data Through Community Information Exchanges Q&A](#)

The recently released *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics* supplemental issue features articles authored by presenters at the 2025 Public Health Law Conference in Seattle, Washington. Stephen Murphy, Director, Meghan Mead, Deputy Director, and Emma Kaeser, Senior Attorney, Network for Public Health Law—Mid-States Region, co-authored the article, "An Analysis of Legal Considerations for Sharing Data Through Community Information Exchanges." In the following Q&A, Stephen, Meghan, and Emma discuss the article and how it addresses a critical public health issue.

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.



[Local Cooling Requirements to Protect Individuals from the Health Effects of Extreme Heat in Living Spaces](#)

While many states require heating equipment to be installed or minimum temperatures maintained in rental dwelling units, few, if any, states have implemented similar requirements to provide cooling equipment to be installed or temperatures be maintained to prevent people from suffering the health effects of extreme heat where they live. As temperatures rise due to climate change, local cities and counties are considering ordinances to do just that. This resource summarizes some key features of selected local ordinances.

Announcements

[The Network Joins Supreme Court Amicus Brief in Defense of Telehealth](#)

Access

The Network has joined 174 professors, health organizations, and health care providers in an amicus brief filed before the United States Supreme Court in *Danco Laboratories, LLC v. Louisiana* and *GenBioPro, Inc. v. Louisiana*, urging the Court to protect telehealth access for patients across the country. At issue is a Fifth Circuit ruling that reimposed in-person dispensing requirements for the abortion medication mifepristone. While the brief focuses on the broad benefits of telehealth, it also speaks directly to reproductive health, noting that access to telehealth for reproductive health care is no different than other areas of medicine.

Racial Health Equity Legal and Policy Cohort Call for Applications

Submission Deadline: Friday, June 26, 2026, at 5pm CT

The Network's Racial Health Equity Legal and Policy Cohort (RHE Cohort) helps participants strengthen strategies, navigate complex legal landscapes, and build durable, equity-centered solutions that serve communities most impacted by structural racism. The Network invites public health and community-based organizations working on projects or issues that prioritize racial health equity to apply for participation in the program. There is no cost to apply or to participate if selected.

The Indian Health System: the Role of State and Local Partners in Advancing Tribal Health Equity

May 18th 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. CST

Join us for the next Network Equity Officer Peer Group Learning Session where we will be joined by the National Indian Health Board's Chief Executive Officer, A.C. Locklear II, who will introduce the foundations of the Indian health system: what it is, why it exists, and how it is tied to Tribal sovereignty. You will also obtain an understanding of the role of state and local partners in the Indian health system and how you can support Tribal priorities and progress health equity.

If you currently work in a state, Tribal, local, or territorial government working to promote equity, you can request to join the Equity Officer Peer Group and receive a registration link, [here](#).

Worth Sharing

Free Legal Resources on Public Health Data Sharing for Local Health Departments

June 11th, 2026, at 11 am PT/1 pm CT/2 pm ET

Join the Public Health Law Center, the Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologists, and the Network for Public Health Law for a 45-minute overview of free resources related to sharing data for public health purposes. The speakers will discuss common legal questions raised by local health departments on data sharing topics and highlight helpful resources including peer learning groups. Additionally, speakers will talk about how to access free legal and policy technical assistance. This webinar will be the first of three webinars that address public health data sharing at the local level.

The Data Revolution and Population Health: Tech Tools, Cross-Sector Data, and Community Expertise--A Workshop

June 25, 2026, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Join the Roundtable on Population Health Improvement of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine for a day-long hybrid workshop exploring this timely topic, including issues of data governance, working with cross-sector data sets, navigating the promise and perils of emerging technology, and centering the needs and expertise of diverse communities. Network Deputy Director—Mid-States Region, Meghan Mead, J.D., will be part of the panel discussion on Emerging Data Sources to Inform Public Health.

[Legal Library Landscape Analysis: Legal Resources to Support Data Sharing](#)

Developed through a collaboration between the Network and Data Across Sectors for Health (DASH), this analysis provides an expanded and modernized collection of legal resources to support public health professionals and cross-sector partners in their data sharing efforts. Integrated into the [DASH Knowledge Base](#) (DKB), the [Legal Library](#) includes 171 current and publicly available resources that move beyond compliance checklists to deliver actionable guidance. The collection contains practical tools such as templates, model agreements, and governance frameworks, while highlighting data sharing approaches that are equity-driven, elevate community voice, and foster collaboration across sectors.

[APHA Policy Action Institute](#)

June 9-10, 2026 Arlington, Virginia

The 2026 Policy Action Institute will take place June 9-10 at the Hilton Arlington National Landing and online. Through panels, hands-on workshops and networking sessions with top public health policymakers, attendees will learn how to navigate funding cuts, influence policy to drive change and secure critical resources for their initiatives. There will be an optional Hill Day on June 11, where participants will be given the opportunity to meet directly with policymakers and their staff and advocate for public health priorities.

Job Opportunities

[Data Governance Epidemiologist](#)

Closing Date: 05/25/2026

The Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) is seeking a Data Governance Epidemiologist to act as the Deputy to the Director of Data Governance, manage and support the Data Governance epidemiologists, support the definition and implementation of SOPs and best practices for de-identifying data sets, guide requests for linked data sets, manage and support the implementation of a metadata management framework and more. A J.D. degree is preferred but not required.

[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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