



AI in Public Health Data Modernization: Strategy, Funding, and What Comes Next

AI is playing an increasingly prominent role in public health data modernization. The CDC's Public Health Data Strategy and AI Strategy are shaping CDC's AI policy. Additionally, the IC Program (funded by the Public Infrastructure Grant) and Rural Health Transformation Program, two of the largest funding streams to modernize our public health and health care infrastructure over the last few years, may offer financial support to jurisdictions for certain AI-related projects. [Read the full article.](#)

Law & Policy Insights



Civic Engagement as a Trust Link Between Public Health (Law) and Communities

The growing recognition of the connections between health and democracy is a testament to both the long-term public health work of improving upstream determinants of health and the work of many others to realize the democratic promises of the Constitution. Building on a six-year partnership, the Network and the Institute for Responsive Government are launching the Health & Democracy Peer Group, a collaborative space for representatives of community-based organizations, health departments, and

healthcare organizations interested in building trust in government and public health so they work for the people.



Law and Policy Strategies to Reduce the Health Risks of Extreme Heat

Betsy Lawton, Network Deputy Director, Climate and Health, co-authored the article: “*It’s Getting Hot Out There: The Need for and Development of Law and Policy Strategies to Reduce Health Risks of Extreme Heat*” in the *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*. In this Q&A, Betsy discusses the article and how it addresses a critical public health issue.

Resources



Generative AI and Health Departments: Legal Considerations and Risks

Artificial intelligence (AI), particularly generative AI, is being used with increasing frequency at all levels of federal and state government, including by state, tribal, local and territorial health (STLT) departments. Amidst the growth of generative AI, there are also emerging legal risks and considerations that health departments will need to assess. This fact sheet highlights some topics of legal risk and considerations that health departments will want to review with their legal counsel.

Webinar



Public Health In Pursuit of Voting Rights for All

DATE CHANGE: August 27, 2026 | 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. CT

Attend this webinar to hear from the Southern Poverty Law Center and Institute for Responsive Government about voting rights and public health. The Southern Poverty Law Center will unpack what the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Louisiana v. Callais* means for voting rights, the public’s health, and public health. Speakers will discuss the connections between health and democracy—for individuals, communities, and the public health system—and identify ways for public health to join the voting rights movement to increase civic and voter participation.

Summit



2026 Public Health Law Virtual Summit: Law, Policy, and Public Health Data Modernization

SAVE THE DATE: December 8-10

Public health data modernization holds the power to transform public health and improve health for communities; and law and policy are indispensable components of this movement. Join us for a three-day virtual summit for insights and guidance on navigating an ever-shifting public health data legal landscape. Learn why law and policy are foundational to public health data modernization; hear how law and policy can support justice and community power in data and data technology, including AI and the role of law and policy in national frameworks for trusted data exchange.

Worth Sharing

The Network at NACCHO360

Visit the Network booth at the NACCHO360 conference in Louisville, July 14-16 to learn more about our upcoming 2026 Public Health Law Virtual Summit: Law, Policy, and Public Health Data Modernization. Pick up a list of our recently released resources by topic and get a free Network canvas tote.

NALBOH 2026 Annual Conference

October 12-14, 2026, San Antonio, Texas

Boards of health play a vital role in protecting and improving community health. The National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) conference is designed to inspire and support both current and future board members by providing practical governance strategies, leadership development, and real-world examples that strengthen board effectiveness. Attendees will include new and experienced board members, community leaders interested in board service, and public health professionals who support boards of health. Sessions will aim to build governance capacity, foster meaningful board engagement, and provide actionable insights that participants can bring back to their communities.

Tell Us What You're Working On.
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Network attorneys can provide consultation and

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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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