

2025 Conference
(<https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/>)

Schedule
(<https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/preliminary-schedule/>)

Sessions by Track
(<https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/sessions/>)

Keynote
(<https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/keynote/>)

Opening Plenary
(<https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/opening-plenary/>)

Closing Plenary
(<https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/closing-plenary/>)

Register
(<https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/>)

Conference Hotel
(<https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/conference-hotel-2/>)

Exhibits
(<https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/exhibits/>)

Sponsorship
(<https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/sponsorship/>)

Legal Advocates for
Harm Reduction
Convening
(<https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/legal->

Schedule

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

8:00 AM
Registration Opens

8:30 AM – 10:30 AM
Pre-Conference Workshops

Pre-Conference Workshop

8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Best Practices for State and Federal Agencies in the Exchange and Protection of Tribal Data

Speakers: Heather Erb, J.D., Lead Policy Advisor, American Indian Health Commission; Summer Hammons, M.B.A., Legislative Policy Analyst, American Indian Health Commission; Kristin Peterson, J.D., Chief of Policy, Washington State Department of Health; Amanda Tjemsland, Senior Tribal Epidemiologist, Washington State Department of Health

Over the past few years, several Tribal Nations, the American Indian Health Commission (AIHC), and the Washington State Department of Health (WA DOH) collaborated to develop and adopt a...

[Read more](#)

Pre-Conference Workshop

8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

No One Left Behind: People Who Use Drugs and Public Health Protections

Register Now (<https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/>)

advocates-for-harm-reduction-convening/)

Presenter Guidelines
(https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/presenter_guidelines/)

Speakers: Corey Davis, J.D., Director, Network for Public Health Law; Ashleigh Dennis, J.D., Staff Attorney, Network for Public Health Law; Amy Lieberman, J.D., Deputy Director, Network for Public Health Law; Michael Abrams, J.D., Senior Attorney, Network for Public Health Law

The Harm Reduction Pre-Conference Workshop is designed to inspire and enable legal professionals and policy makers to center the needs of people who use drugs (PWUD) in their work....

[Read more](#)

10:45 AM – 12:45 PM
Pre-Conference Workshops

Pre-Conference Workshop

10:45 AM – 12:45 PM

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

Speakers: Emma Kaeser, J.D., Staff Attorney, Network for Public Health Law; Naisha Mercury, J.D., Equal Justice Works Fellow, Network for Public Health Law; Kathi Hoke, J.D., Director, Eastern Region, Network for Public Health Law; Ashleigh Dennis, J.D., Staff Attorney, Harm Reduction, Network for Public Health Law

Attend this workshop to hear from Network for Public Health Law attorneys who are closely monitoring changes in law and policy that impact access to reproductive health care directly or...

[Read more](#)

Pre-Conference Workshop

10:45 PM – 12:45 PM

Public Health Career Planning: Insights for Student and Early Career Professionals

[\(https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/\)](https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/)

Speakers: Allison Winnike, J.D., Director, Western Region, Network for Public Health Law; Darlene Huang Briggs, J.D., M.P.H., Deputy Director, Special Projects, Network for Public Health law; Shannan Piccolo, J.D., Senior Attorney, Mid-States, Network for Public Health Law

Whether you are preparing to graduate or have already landed your first job, this workshop will provide you with insights into the diverse ways in which public health is practiced and the potential...

[Read more](#)

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
Opening Celebration
Poster Sessions

Poster

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Surviving Below Sea Level – Harm Reduction in the Deep South: Incarceration Rates, Racial Inequity, and Re-Entry Barriers

Speaker: Jack Waguespack, Executive Director/Co-Founder, Below Sea Level Aid

The Deep South faces unique public health challenges shaped by high incarceration rates, systemic racial inequities, and significant barriers to re-entry for justice-involved individuals....

[Read more](#)

Poster

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

NaloxHome: Connecting At-Risk Patients, Their Families, and Friends to Harm Reduction

Speaker: Craig Wilson, J.D., M.P.A., Director of Health Policy, Arkansas

[\(https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/\)](https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/)
Center for Health Improvement (ACHI)

In 2020, the National Institutes of Health found that patients who visit the emergency department (ED) for opioid overdose are 100 times more likely to die by overdose in the year after being...

[Read more](#)

Poster

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

State Public Health Data Reporting Policies and Practices Vary Widely

Speaker: Margaret Arnesen, M.P.A.P., Senior Officer, State Policy and Research, The Pew Charitable Trusts

A first-of-its-kind, nationwide assessment from The Pew Charitable Trusts reveals vast variation in the policies and practices governing how vital clinical data flows to public health agencies and highlights...

[Read more](#)

Poster

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Prison Health is Public Health: Medical Co-Payment Policies as a Barrier to Health

Speaker: Lorinda Riley, S.J.D., Assistant Professor of Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Health, Office of Public Health Studies; and joint-appointment at Kamakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies

The United States accounts for 20% of the incarcerated population despite making up only 5% of the global population. Currently, over 1.23 million individuals are incarcerated, of which...

[Read more](#)

Poster

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

State Public Reporting Mandates of Healthcare-Associated Infections: A Current Update

Speaker: Monika Pogorzelska-Maziarz, Ph.D., M.P.H., Professor, M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, Villanova University

Previous studies by our research team have revealed that most US states have healthcare-associated infection (HAI) data submission and public reporting laws. These mandates have provided...

Read more

Poster

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Using Policy Mapping to Show Trends in Medical Aid-in Dying Laws

Speaker: Kathryn Kucyk, J.D., Legislative Counsel, Compassion & Choices

Facing a rapidly aging world population, the future of public health practice requires research focused on access to quality end-of-life care. Using legal epidemiology, this presentation will...

Read more

Poster

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Your Afterlife Workflow According to the Government

Speaker: Milda Aksamitauskas, M.P.P., Data governance expert

Vital records are registered at a local level in the United States. The last document that frames your life is the death certificate. By definition, somebody else fills out a form that turns into the...

[Read more](#)

Poster

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Enhancing Legal Literacy for Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response

Speaker: Jessica Baggett, Dr.PH., M.P.H., Senior Advisor, Public Health Response, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the critical role of legal literacy in public health emergency response, revealing the need to enhance state health officials' understanding and application of...

[Read more](#)

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM
Opening Plenary

Opening Plenary

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

**Year in Review: The Legal Shifts
Shaping Public Health**

Moderator: Professor of Law, University of California, Los Angeles

Speakers: Montrece Ransom, J.D., M.P.H., Director, National Coordinating Center for Public Health Training at NNPHI; Andrew Twinamatsiko, J.D., LL.B, Director, Center for Health Policy and the Law, O'Neill Institute; Jill Krueger, J.D., Director, Climate Health Team, Network for Public Health Law

This signature plenary session offers a fast-paced, wide-ranging look at the most significant legal and policy developments that shaped public health over the past year. Through focused insights and live...

[Read more](#)

2:45 PM – 4:00 PM

Concurrent Sessions

Advocacy and Community Engagement

2:45 PM – 4:00 PM

**Through the Intersections:
Criminalization, Public Health, and the
Road Forward**

Speakers: Kerry Thomas, Community Decriminalization Strategist, Sero Project; Jon Card, J.D., Staff Attorney, Health Law and Policy Clinic, Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation of Harvard Law School; Kae Greenberg, Esq., Staff Attorney, Center for HIV Law and Policy; Sean McCormick, Esq., Staff Attorney, Positive Justice Project, Center for HIV Law and Policy

[\(https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/\)](https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/)

This session will focus on the consequences of the heightened criminalization of People Living with HIV (PLHIV), including the impact of collateral consequences post-release ...

[Read more](#)

Emerging Issues and Legal Challenges

2:45 PM – 4:00 PM

Fighting Federal Attacks on Health Care Access and Equity through Legal and Policy Advocacy

Speakers: Madeline Morcelle, J.D., M.P.H., Senior Attorney, National Health Law Program (NHeLP); Mara Youdelman, J.D., LL.M., Managing Director, Federal Advocacy, National Health Law Program (NHeLP); Sarah Somers, J.D., M.P.H., Legal Director, National Health Law Program (NHeLP)

This session will provide an overview of current federal attacks on and looming threats to Medicaid, the ACA, and civil rights, including those that affect sexual and reproductive health care access a...

[Read more](#)

Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention

2:45 PM – 4:00 PM

Advancing Public Health and Harm Reduction Solutions to the Intersecting Crises of Homelessness and Overdose in the Era of Regressive Backlash

Speakers: Kate Boulton, J.D., M.P.H., Senior Legal Technical Advisor, Vital Strategies Overdose Prevention Program; Amanda Hall, M.S.W., Senior Director of National Campaigns, Dream.org; Elizabeth Green, Ph.D., Communications Director, Big Cities Health Coalition; Derek Carr, J.D., Legal Technical Advisor, Vital Strategies

Overdose Prevention Program

[\(https://events.networkforphi.org/2025-conference/register/\)](https://events.networkforphi.org/2025-conference/register/)

Perceived public disorder and rising homelessness have driven backlash against proven public health policies, with jurisdictions across the political spectrum increasingly embracing...

[Read more](#)

Health and Racial Health Equity

2:45 PM – 4:00 PM

How to Weave Cultural Healing in Clinical Care to Promote Community Health & Well-Being

Speakers: Sara Rogers, M.P.H., Senior Policy Analyst, Health Equity, Network for Public Health Law; Maria Vallejo, M.S.W. Candidate, Community Advancement Coordinator, Fairview Health Services; Christina McCoy, Manager, Community Health Equity Initiatives; Mary Anne Ligeralde Quiroz, Co-Founder & Executive Director, Indigenous Roots Cultural Arts Center

Culture shapes how individuals and families perceive health, interact with systems, and receive care, shaping both personal and collective well-being. This session will explore cultural healing an...

[Read more](#)

Strengthening Public Health Protections

2:45 PM – 4:00 PM

Strengthening Public Health: Navigating Authority, Data Use, and Legal Resources

Speakers: Sunbal Virk, J.D., L.L.M., Public Health Attorney, Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists; Taylor Pinsent, M.P.H., Senior Program Analyst, Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

This dynamic panel session will provide a comprehensive exploration of key issues shaping public health practice

shifts in legal and regulatory framewor...

[\(https://events.thebusinessofpublichealth.org/2025-conference/register/\)](https://events.thebusinessofpublichealth.org/2025-conference/register/)

[Read more](#)

Public Health Data Access, Sharing, and Privacy

2:45 PM – 4:00 PM

Privacy at the Crossroads: Adapting to New Regulations and Developments

Speakers: Stephen Murphy, J.D., Director, Network for Public Health Law—Mid-States Region; Meghan Mead, J.D., Deputy Director, Network for Public Health Law—Mid-States Region

Join us for a special in-person privacy peer learning session hosted by the Network's Privacy Officer Peer Group and open to anyone with an interest in privacy. This session will include a...

[Read more](#)

4:00 PM – 4:05 PM

Break

4:05 PM – 5:20 PM

Concurrent Sessions

Advocacy and Community Engagement

4:05 PM – 5:20 PM

Supporting and Developing Regenerative Leaders in Public Health

Speakers: Monica Valdes Lupi, J.D., M.P.H., Managing Director, Health Program, The Kresge Foundation; Daisy Ellis, M.P.H., Chronic Disease Policy Specialist, City of New Orleans Health Department; María Gallegos, Public Health Compliance Manager, One Albuquerque Environmental Health, City

[\(https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/\)](https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/)

As the landscape for public health changes, leaders must develop the skills to undertake new challenges through regenerative practices. PHEARLESS, which stands for the Public Health...

[Read more](#)

Emerging Issues and Legal Challenges

4:05 PM – 5:20 PM

Artificial Intelligence Assisted Policy Analysis and Legal Mapping

Speakers: Cason Schmit, J.D., Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University School of Public Health; Regen Weber-Fares, J.D., M.P.H., Postdoctoral Research Associate, Texas A&M University School of Public Health; Snigdha Peddireddy, M.P.H., Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Behavioral, Social, & Health Education Sciences, Emory University; Mara Howard-Williams, J.D., M.P.H., Legal Epidemiology Team Lead, Office of Public Health Law Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) present new tools for increasing efficiency of legal mapping and policy analysis for legal epidemiology. Recent uses of AI/ML in...

[Read more](#)

Harm Reduction and Overdose Protections

4:05 PM – 5:20 PM

Innovations and the Law: Harm Reduction in Washington State

Speakers: Malika Lamont, Program Director, VOCAL-WA

We welcome attendees to come hear from harm reductionists across our host state of Washington discuss how their programs are supported or hindered by public health and the law, and how...

[Read more](#)

[\(https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/\)](https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/)

Health and Racial Health Equity

4:05 PM – 5:20 PM

Centering True Lived Experience in Policy to Support Health During Reentry from Incarceration

Speakers: Quang H. Dang J.D., Interim Co-Executive Director, Network for Public Health Law; Emma Kaeser, J.D., Staff Attorney, Network for Public Health Law—Mid-States Region; Dorel Clayton, C.P.S.S., Community Health Worker, Transitions Clinic Network; Anna Steiner, MSW, MPH, Associate Director of Transitions Clinic Network

The period when individuals reenter their communities following incarceration presents an important intervention point to mitigate the health harms of incarceration. Legal and policy...

[Read more](#)

Strengthening Public Health Protections

4:05 PM – 5:20 PM

Legal Epidemiology for Health Departments: A Tool for Evaluating Policy Impact on Population Health

Speakers: Scott Burris, J.D, Director, Center for Public Health Law Research, Temple University; Alexandra Hess, J.D., M.P.H., Legal Training Manager, Center for Public Health Law Research, Temple University; Elizabeth Platt, J.D., M.A., Director of Research and Operations, Center for Public Health Law Research, Temple University; Elizabeth Van Nostrand, J.D., Associate Professor, Temple University College of Public Health

This interactive panel will support legal epidemiology capacity-building in health departments to strengthen and support policy evaluation and change. The panel will introduce new tools and resources...

[Read more](#)

[\(https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/\)](https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/)

Public Health Data Access, Sharing, and Privacy

4:05 PM – 5:20 PM

Modernizing Data for Public Health Impact: Strategies for Secure Release and Smarter Systems

Speakers: Deja Kemp, Esq., Director of Legal Policy, AISP; and Research Faculty, University of Pennsylvania; Jennifer Schitter, M.P.H., Director of Public Health Data, Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC); Taylor Pinsent, M.P.H., Senior Program Analyst, Surveillance and Informatics Program, Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE); Willysha Jenkins, Senior Advisor, Data Modernization and Informatics, Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB)

As public health challenges evolve, so must our approach to data management and sharing. This session will provide an overview for developing clear guidance for aggregate data release and creatin...

[Read more](#)

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Registration Open/Breakfast Buffet

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Poster Session

9:10 AM – 10:30 AM

Concurrent Sessions

Advocacy and Community Engagement

9:10 AM – 10:30 AM

[\(https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/\)](https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/)

Pro-Vaccine Advocacy at the State Level: Legislative and Judicial Trends

Speakers: Ashley Chambers, J.D., Director of Legal Affairs, SAFE Communities Coalition; Richard Hughes IV, J.D., M.P.H., Epstein Becker Green

The SAFE Communities Coalition supports pro-vaccine legislation and lawmakers, and empowers everyday people (the often silent pro-vaccine majority) to advocate for health and...

[Read more](#)

Emerging Issues and Legal Challenges

9:10 AM – 10:30 AM

Changing the Narrative through Community-Centered Legal Epidemiology Research

Speakers: Dawn Hunter, J.D., M.P.H., Founder and CEO, The Dawn Lab; Montrece Ransom, J.D., M.P.H., Director, National Coordinating Center for Public Health Training at NNPHI; Alexandra Hess, J.D., M.P.H., Legal Training Manager, Center for Public Health Law Research, Temple University

This panel will explore the importance of community-centered legal epidemiology in advancing health equity by providing a framework to engage communities most impacted by structural inequities in the...

[Read more](#)

Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention

9:10 AM – 10:30 AM

Advancing Policy for Public Health: Using Legal Epidemiology to Advance Harm Reduction Policies to Improve Outcomes Related to HIV and Viral Hepatitis

Speakers: Scott Burris, J.D., Director, Center for Public Health Law Research, James E. Beasley Professor of Law, Temple University Beasley School of

<https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/>

Law; Katie Moran-McCabe, J.D., Lead Law and Policy Analyst, Center for Public Health Law Research, James E. Beasley Professor of Law, Temple University Beasley School of Law; Tamara Rushovich, Ph.D., M.P.H., Postdoctoral Fellow, Urban Health Collaborative, Drexel Dornsife School of Public Health

Empirical research on the health effects of law can empower public health leaders to identify and implement evidence-based legal changes. This session explores the use of legal...

[Read more](#)

Health and Racial Health Equity

9:10 AM – 10:30 AM

Embedding Equity in State-Wide Decision Making to Address Root Causes of Health Inequities

Speakers: Cait Lang-Perez, M.P.H., Health Policy Analyst, Washington State Board of Health and the Washington State Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities; Miranda Calmjoy, M.P.H., Health Policy Analyst, Washington State Board of Health and the Washington State Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities; Lindsay Herenden, M.P.H., M.C.R.P., Health Policy Analyst, Washington State Board of Health and Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities

In 2006, the Washington State Legislature authorized the State Board of Health to conduct Health Impact Reviews (HIRs) in collaboration with the Governor's Interagency Council on...

[Read more](#)

Strengthening Public Health Protections

9:10 AM – 10:30 AM

[\(https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/\)](https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/)

The Case for Modernizing Public Health Systems Through Better Governance

Speakers: Darlene Huang Briggs, J.D., M.P.H., Deputy Director of Special Projects, Network for Public Health Law; Megan McClaire, M.S.P.H., Chief Program Officer, Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB); Marisa Bremer, Program Manager, Institute for Responsive Government

Imagine a trusted and modernized public health system that meets the needs of the communities it serves. This session will describe and align existing legal authorities and policy principles at play...

[Read more](#)

Data Privacy and Public Health

9:10 AM – 10:30 AM

Disaggregating Public Health Data by Race and Ethnicity to Improve Public Health

Speakers: Leslie Zellers, J.D., Public Health Attorney; Amy Vertal, M.P.H., Senior Program Manager for Census and Data Equity, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Mar Velez, M.P.H., Director of Policy, Latino Coalition for a Healthy California; Lloyd Feng, Senior Data Policy Coordinator, CACF

Disaggregated data on race and ethnicity allows public health professionals to create appropriate, efficient, and equitable interventions to improve health outcomes. This sessio...

[Read more](#)

10:30 AM – 10:45 PM

Networking Break

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

[\(https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/\)](https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/)

Concurrent Sessions

Advocacy and Community Engagement

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Community Determined Policies and Intervention: Approaches to Climate Change and Health Equity

Speakers: Bradley Kramer, Ph.D., M.P.H., Senior Program Manager, Climate & Health Equity Initiative, Public Health Seattle & King County; Jessica Jeavons, J.D., Director Policy and Strategy, Public Health Seattle & King County; Ginna Hernandez Rodriguez, M.P.I.A., Policy Analyst, Public Health Seattle & King County; Paulina Lopez, M.A., Executive Director, Duwamish River Community Coalition (DRCC/TAG)

The session will feature three dynamic approaches by Public Health – Seattle & King County to reach community self-determined solutions to address policy and interventions that accelerate health...

[Read more](#)

Emerging Issues and Legal Challenges

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

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

Speakers: Quang Dang, J.D., Interim Co-Executive Director, Network for Public Health Law; Phyllis Jeden, J.D., Senior Attorney, Network for Public Health Law—Mid-States Region; Alexandra Hess, J.D., M.P.H., Legal Training Manager, Center for Public Health Law Research, Temple University

In the wake of the renewed racial justice movement in 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic, jurisdictions across the country enacted laws to address health disparities and advance racial equity ...

[Read more](#)

[\(https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/\)](https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/)

Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Drug Checking for the Public Health: Lessons from Practitioners

Speakers: Carmelita Cruz, J.D., Director, Office of Health Equity and Policy Initiatives, NY Department of Public Health; Thea Oliphant-Wells, M.S.W., Harm Reduction & Fentanyl Testing Program Manager, Public Health – Seattle & King County; Blake Joachim, Lead Drug Checking Coordinator, OutsideIn

Drug checking can be an effective harm reduction intervention on both the individual and community levels. In this session, attendees will hear from three drug checking practitioners on the way...

[Read more](#)

Health and Racial Health Equity

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Meeting the Moment: Addressing Structural Barriers to Sexual and Reproductive Health Care Access and Equity

Speakers: Jen Stollow, Ph.D., M.P.H., Assistant Professor, Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine; Alejandro McGhee, M.Phil, Research Assistant, Department of Health Policy & Management, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; Madeline Morcelle, J.D. M.P.H., Senior Attorney, National Health Law Program; Amy Merceicia, Ph.D. Candidate, Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

Structural oppression continues to shape access to sexual and reproductive health care, disproportionately harming Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, LGBTQI+ individuals, people with...

[Read more](#)

[\(https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/\)](https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/)

Strengthening Public Health Systems

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Beyond Legislation: Litigation, Rulemaking, and Policy Implementation to Promote Health Equity

Speakers: Sarah de Guia, J.D., Chief Executive Officer, ChangeLab Solutions; Sabrina Adler, J.D., Vice President of Law, ChangeLab Solutions; Alexis Etow, J.D., Managing Director, ChangeLab Solutions; Jami Crespo, J.D., M.P.A., Senior Attorney, ChangeLab Solutions

Policy change efforts often focus on legislation as a tool, but there are non-legislative strategies that can be equally if not more effective, particularly in challenging political climates. This...

[Read more](#)

Public Health Data Access, Sharing, and Privacy

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Navigating Legal Barriers to Cross-Jurisdictional Public Health Data Sharing

Speakers: Fallon Cochlin, J.D., Postdoctoral Research Associate, Texas A&M University School of Public Health; Jami Crespo, J.D., M.P.A., Senior Attorney, ChangeLab Solutions; Regen Weber-Fares, J.D., M.P.H., Postdoctoral Research Associate, eTexas A&M University School of Public Health; Tara Ramanathan Holiday, J.D., M.P.H., Branch Chief for Data Policy, Research and Translation Public Health, CDC's Public Health Law Program

Hundreds of siloed public health data systems hinder the timely and effective exchange of critical public health data to help keep our communities healthy. CDC's Data Modernization Initiative ai...

[Read more](#)

12:05 PM – 1:35 PM
Lunch Keynote

1:45 PM – 3:00 PM
Concurrent Sessions

Advocacy and Community Engagement

1:45 PM – 3:00 PM

**Health and Democracy:
Democratizing Community Health Assessments**

Speakers: Gnora Mahs, Dr.PH., M.P.H., Health & Democracy Coalitions Advisor, Institute for Responsive Government; Margarita Northrop, M.P.H., M.I.P.A., State Health Plan Coordinator, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Office of Policy and Practice Alignment; Jeannette Raymond, Former Public Health Practice Assistant Section Manager, Minnesota Department of Health; Jeanne Ayers, R.N., M.P.H., Fellow, Institute for Responsive Government

There is a growing recognition of the interconnected relationship between democracy and health. Healthy People 2030 named increasing voter participation as a core objective pavin...

[Read more](#)

Emerging Issues and Legal Challenges

1:45 PM – 3:00 PM

Preparing for the Next Public Health Emergency: Investment in Broadband Infrastructure to Improve Public Health Outcomes

Speakers: Sara Raza, LL.M., Clinical Fellow and Attorney, Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation of Harvard

<https://www.samueliwell.org/2025-conference/register/>

President and Co-Founder, Post Road

Foundation; Waide Warner, J.D.,
Chairman and Co-Founder, Post Road
Foundation

From vaccine appointments and test
results to tracking CDC mask mandates,
healthcare and public health's reliance
on the internet surged during the
COVID-19 pandemic. Virtual care...

[Read more](#)

Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention

1:45 PM – 3:00 PM

**Disability Justice: Novel Approaches
to Using the American Disabilities Act
to Protect the Rights of People Living
with Disabilities and Promote Public
Health**

Speakers: Bianca Laureano, Ph.D,
M.A., C.S.E., C.S.E.S., Foundress,
ANTE UP!; Milo Inglehart, J.D., Staff
Attorney, Transgender Law Center
(TLC); Amelia Caramadre, Esq., M.P.H.,
Attorney, Kaplan & Grady; Sean
McCormick, J.D., Staff Attorney, Positive
Justice Project, Center for HIV Law and
Policy (CHLP)

This session will explain the historical
and ongoing discrimination against
people living with disabilities and explore
its convergence with other forms of
oppression. Speakers will provide...

[Read more](#)

Health and Racial Health Equity

1:45 PM – 3:00 PM

**Fighting the Anti-Anti-Racism
Movement through Theory, Practice,
and Litigation**

Speakers: April Shaw, Ph.D., J.D.,
Acting Director, Health Equity, Network
for Public Health Law; Paloma Wu, J.D.,
Deputy Director, George Riley Impact
Litigation Initiative, Mississippi Center for

[\(https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/\)](https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/)

Justice; Ali Rogers, M.P.H., Policy Analyst, Ingham County Health Department

This session examines the anti-anti-racism movement and its public health impacts. It assesses legal and narrative trends focusing on where we are, where we were, and what has changed....

[Read more](#)

Strengthening Public Health Protections

1:45 PM – 3:00 PM

Banning Menthol Cigarettes: The Fight for Health Justice in the Face of Industry Racism and Regulatory Incompetence

Speakers: Colleen Healy Boufides, J.D., Senior Staff Attorney, Commercial Tobacco Control Programs, Public Health Law Center; Mark Meaney, J.D., M.A., Director, Commercial Tobacco Control Programs, Public Health Law Center; Andrew Twinamatsiko, J.D., LL.B, Director, Center for Health Policy and the Law, O'Neill Institute

This session to recap the decades of work by public health advocates, lawyers, and researchers to advance evidence based policy in the face of relentless and racist industry targeting...

[Read more](#)

Public Health Data Access, Sharing, and Privacy

1:45 PM – 3:00 PM

State Health Departments and Tribes: A New Public Health Data Sharing Approach and Model

Speakers: Chris Alibrandi O'Connor, J.D., Managing Director and Owner, Chris Alibrandi O'Connor Consulting; Peter Reckmeyer, J.D., Senior Legal Counsel, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

[\(https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/\)](https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/)

Long-standing barriers hinder state health departments from sharing data with Tribal Health Organizations (THOs). These barriers, which may include legal obstacles, uncertainty, and a lack of...

[Read more](#)

3:00 PM – 3:15 PM

Networking Break

3:15 PM – 4:30 PM

Concurrent Sessions

Advocacy and Community Engagement

3:15 PM – 4:30 PM

The Role of Law and Policy in Achieving Mobility and Transportation Equity

Speakers: Kerri McGowan Lowrey, J.D., M.P.H., Deputy Director, Network for Public Health Law—Eastern Region; Johnathon Ehsani, Ph.D, M.P.H., Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; Dan Cooke, Licensing, Endorsements, and Traffic Safety (LETS) Administrator, Washington State Department of Licensing; Jaqueline Garcia Castillo, Founder and Executive Director, Mujer al Volante

Through engaging discussion, this session will present a powerful example of the role of law, advocacy, and community engagement in addressing mobility equity, a key driver of health a...

[Read more](#)

Emerging Issues and Legal Challenges

[\(https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/\)](https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/)

3:15 PM – 4:30 PM

Integration of Public Health in Climate Strategies by Major U.S. Cities: A Pragmatic Look at the Treatment of Climate-Health Crisis in Municipal Policies

Speakers: Keegan Warren, J.D., LL.M., Executive Director, Institute for Healthcare Access, Texas A&M University; Principal, Future States Advisory; Patrick Murphy, M.B.A., Vice President, Sierra Club

The field of sustainability seeks to integrate environmental health, social equity, and economic vitality for the well-being of current and future generations. A critical emerging challenge in this fiel...

[Read more](#)

Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention

3:15 PM – 4:30 PM

The Future of Harm Reduction in an Increasingly Hostile Legal Environment

Speakers: Amy Lieberman, J.D., Deputy Director, Harm Reduction Legal Project, Network for Public Health Law; Allison Newman, M.P.H., Program Operations Specialist (CEDEER), University of Washington; Corey Davis, J.D., Director, Harm Reduction Legal Project, Network for Public Health Law

How can public health professionals work collaboratively with harm reduction programs in a hostile legal and political environment to ensure best health practices, safety, and dignity for peopl...

[Read more](#)

Health and Racial Health Equity

3:15 PM – 4:30 PM

Maternal Health Disparities and Local Health Department Engagement

[\(https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/\)](https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/)

Speakers: Monica Valdes Lupi, J.D., M.P.H., Managing Director, Health Program, The Kresge Foundation; Sian Elmore, Public Health Administrator, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District; Kimberly Henderson, Ph.D, Deputy Chief of Staff, Harris County Public Health; Erika Brown, MD, MBA, FACHE, Director – Community Health and Wellness Division, Harris County Public Health

The Kresge Foundation hosted a Maternal Health Disparities Leadership Summit. The Summit provided a roundtable discussion to explore persistent and alarming disparities in...

[Read more](#)

Strengthening Public Health Protections

3:15 PM – 4:30 PM

Challenges and Opportunities in Public Health Under the Trump Administration

Speakers: Scott Burris, J.D., Director, Center for Public Health Law Research, James E. Beasley Professor of Law, Temple University Beasley School of Law; Mehreen Butt, J.D., Managing Director, Center for Health Policy and Law, Northeastern University of Law; Sabrina Adler, J.D., Vice President of Law, ChangeLab Solutions

The 2023-2024 Supreme Court term and the 2024 elections ushered in a new and unfamiliar landscape for public health law. In the session, the Act for Public Health partnership will identify the...

[Read more](#)

Public Health Data Access, Sharing, And Privacy

3:15 PM – 4:30 PM

Advancing Health Equity through Community Information Exchanges (CIEs)

[\(https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/\)](https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/)

Speakers: Stephen Murphy, J.D.,
Director, Network for Public Health Law
—Mid-States Region; Emma Kaeser,
J.D., Staff Attorney, Network for Public
Health Law—Mid-States Region;
Meghan Mead, J.D., Deputy Director,
Network for Public Health—Mid-States
Region

A community information exchange (CIE)
is a community governed infrastructure
that enables critical health and social
information to be responsibly shared
among partner organizations in suppor...

[Read more](#)

4:35 PM – 5:50 PM

Concurrent Sessions

Advocacy and Community Engagement

4:35 PM – 5:50 PM

Building Partnerships with Community and Cross-Sectoral Partners to Advance Health and Health Equity

Speakers: Angela McGowan, J.D.,
M.P.H., Senior Director, Alliance for the
Public's Health, American Public Health
Association; Kate Robb, M.S.P.H.,
Project Manager, Building Bridges,
American Public Health Association;
Maslyn Locke, J.D., Senior Attorney,
New Mexico Environmental Law Center

Strong cross-sectoral and community
partnerships are critical to advancing
public health and health equity.
Advocacy and collaboration ensure laws
and policies facilitate, not impede, heal...

[Read more](#)

Emerging Issues and Legal Challenges

4:35 PM – 5:50 PM

[\(https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/\)](https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/)

It's Getting Hot Out There – Law and Policy Strategies to Reduce Health Risks of Extreme Heat

Speakers: Betsy Lawton, J.D., Deputy Director, Climate and Health, Network for Public Health Law; Caleb Smith, Resiliency Coordinator, WeAct; Joanne Pérodin, Ph.D., Vice President of Programs, CLEO Institute

The data is clear: Earth's temperature is on the rise, with the 10 most recent years being the hottest on record. Extreme heat—the number one weather-related killer in the nation—is regularly...

[Read more](#)

Health and Racial Health Equity

4:35 PM – 5:50 PM

The Public Health Case for Reparations and Insights from the Field

Speakers: Melissa Jones, M.P.A., Executive Director, BARHII; Brandon Greene, Esq., Director of Policy Advocacy, Western Center on Law and Poverty

This session explores the intersections of public health and reparations policies. Public health experts, legal advocates, and local government leaders will examine the transformative potential o...

[Read more](#)

Strengthening Public Health Protections

4:35 PM – 5:50 PM

Navigating Roadblocks and Detours: Impact of Preemption, Policy Changes, and Funding Cuts on Public Health

Speakers: Allison Winnike, J.D., Director, Western Region, Network for Public Health Law; Amy Cook, J.D., Senior Law and Policy Analyst, Center

[\(https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/\)](https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/)

for Public Health Law Research; Jill Krueger, J.D., Director, Climate Health Team, Network for Public Health Law

This session examines recent public health policy changes at the federal and state levels, including major shifts in climate policy, federal cuts to public health funding and infrastructure, and...

[Read more](#)

Public Health Data Access, Sharing, and Privacy

4:35 PM – 5:50 PM

Protect and Share: Empowering data sharing with ethical governance and social license to address disparities in marginalized communities

Speakers: Cason Schmit, J.D., Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University; Deja Kemp, Esq., Director of Legal Policy, Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy; Isabel Algrant, M.S., Assistant Director of Training and Technical Assistance, Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy; Meghan O'Connell, M.D., M.P.H, Chief Public Health Officer, Great Plains Tribal Leaders' Health Board

This session will explore how ethics-based policies and practices are key to unlocking the full potential of data for impactful public health interventions. The presentations will underscore the critic...

[Read more](#)

Harm Reduction

4:35 PM – 5:50 PM

Legal Strategies and Protections in Harm Reduction

Speakers: Jacqueline Seitz, J.D., Deputy Director of Health Privacy, Legal Action Center; Shanaya Desai, Dual J.D. and M.P.H. student, Temple University; Ashleigh Dennis, J.D., Attorney, Harm Reduction Legal Project, Network for Public Health Law

[\(https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/\)](https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/)

Attorneys from Vital Strategies, Northeastern University, Drug Policy Alliance, the Center for HIV Policy Innovation, the law firm Kaplan & Grady and the Network’s own Harm Reductio...

[Read more](#)

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Conference Reception

Thursday, September 18, 2025

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM
Closing Plenary

Closing Plenary

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

**Bridging Public Health and
Community Needs Through Strong
Partnerships**

Moderator: April Shaw, J.D., Ph.D.,
Deputy Director, Network for Public
Health Law—Health Equity team

Speakers: Emma M. Torres, M.S.W.,
Executive Director/Founder, Campesinos
Sin Fronteras; Zelalem Adefris, M.P.H,
Chief Executive Officer, Catalyst Miami;
Annajane Yolken, MPH, Director of
Strategy, Project Weber/RENEW

Community based organizations (CBOs)
are at the forefront of efforts to create
positive health outcomes for communities
of color and others who experience
structural harms. The work that CBOs ...

[Read more](#)

10:15 AM – 11:30 AM
Concurrent Sessions

[\(https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/\)](https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/)

Advocacy and Community Engagement

10:15 AM – 11:30 AM

Policy Co-Design Through Community Engagement

Speakers: Ginna Hernandez Rodriguez, M.P.I.A., Policy Analyst, Public Health Seattle & King County; Jessica Jeavons, J.D., Director Policy and Strategy, Public Health Seattle & King County; Sarah Walker, Ph.D., Director of University of Washington CoLab for Community & Behavioral Health Policy; Angel Swanson, Executive Director, Feeding Feasible Feasts

This presentation will highlight the innovative approaches taken by Public Health – Seattle & King County and the University of Washington CoLab to address public health issues through...

[Read more](#)

Emerging Issues and Legal Challenges

10:15 AM – 11:30 AM

The Misclassification of Misoprostol and Mifepristone as Controlled Substances – A Public Health and Legal Response

Speakers: Jeanie Donovan, M.P.H., M.P.Aff., Deputy Director, New Orleans Health Department; Ryann Martinek, M.P.H., Sexual and Reproductive Health Specialist, New Orleans Health Department; Ellie Schilling, J.D., Health Care Attorney, SEMM Law

In 2024, Louisiana became the first state to place misoprostol and mifepristone on the state's Controlled Substances List in a misguided attempt to reduce access to the drugs, which are used in medicatio...

[Read more](#)

Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention

10:15 AM – 11:30 AM

Overdose Prevention Centers: State of the Law and Continuing Momentum

Speakers: Kellen Russoniello, J.D., M.P.H., Director of Public Health, Drug Policy Alliance; Annajane Yolken, MPH, Director of Strategy, Project Weber/RENEW; Sam Rivera, Executive Director, OnPoint NYC; Alaine Mezon, OPC RPIC (Responsible Person in Charge) Mike Selick, MSW, Director of Capacity Building and Community Mobilization, National Harm Reduction Coalition, selick@harmreduction.org

With nearly 100,000 people dying of overdose in the United States every year, communities must take bold action to save lives. Overdose prevention centers (OPCs) are evidence-based...

[Read more](#)

Health and Racial Health Equity

10:15 AM – 11:30 AM

Proyecto Luz 3.0: Navigating the Intersection of Immigration Law and Public Health in Latino Communities

Speakers: Dulce Ruelas, Dr.PH., M.P.H., Research Scientist & Associate Professor, Grand Canyon University; Carol Galletly, J.D., M.P.H., Associate Professor, Medical College of Wisconsin

Concerns about immigration laws and the laws themselves can impact immigrants' participation in public health measures undermining efforts to control epidemics effectively. Proyecto Luz 3.0...

[Read more](#)

Public Health Data Access, Sharing, and Privacy

10:15 AM – 11:30 AM

[\(https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/\)](https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/)

Is TEFCA a panacea? What TEFCA solves, what it doesn't solve, and how you can use it

Speakers: Lillian M. Colasurdo, J.D., M.E.L.P., Director of Public Health Law & Data Sharing, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO); Nichole Sweeney, J.D., General Counsel and Chief Privacy Officer, CRISP

The promise of TEFCA for data sharing with public health authorities has been heralded from the top offices at the Federal Government. This session will explore whether and how early...

[Read more](#)

12:00 PM

Conference Adjourns

[\(https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/preliminary-schedule/\)](https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/preliminary-schedule/)

[Disclaimer \(https://www.networkforphl.org/disclaimer/\)](https://www.networkforphl.org/disclaimer/)

| [Privacy \(https://www.networkforphl.org/privacy/\)](https://www.networkforphl.org/privacy/)

© Copyright 2025 Network for
Public Health Law

This site runs like [Clockwork](https://clockwork.com)
(<https://clockwork.com>)

[\(https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/\)](https://events.networkforphl.org/2025-conference/register/)