

Below are examples of the resources offered by PHLP and partners.

Healthcare-Associated Infections

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials and CDC developed a policy toolkit to help eliminate healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) in states. The toolkit includes promising ways to use legal and policy interventions in a comprehensive HAI prevention program.

www.cdc.gov/HAI/prevent/astho-policytoolkit.html

Public Health Law 101, Unit 9: Obesity Prevention and Control

Public Health Law 101 is a foundational course for public health practitioners provided by CDC; this course is designed for delivery by legal counsel to STLT public health department staff who want to better understand legal issues affecting public health outcomes in their area. Unit 9 addresses obesity and includes scientific information on obesity, an examination of existing laws on nutrition and physical activity that influence obesity, and a discussion of selected crosscutting, innovative laws.

<http://www2a.cdc.gov/phlp/phl101/>

Contact Information

Public Health Law Program

1600 Clifton Rd
MS-E70
Atlanta, GA 30333

Phone: 404-498-0470

Fax: 404-498-6882

Email: PhLawProgram@cdc.gov

Website: www.cdc.gov/phlp

PUBLIC HEALTH LAW PROGRAM

Law as a Public Health Tool



Overview of Public Health Law

Law is a tool for protecting and promoting the health of the public, and has been critical in attaining public health goals. Many of public health's greatest successes, including high childhood immunization rates, improved motor vehicle safety, safer workplaces, and reduced tooth decay, have relied heavily on law. Further, law will play an increasingly important role in addressing emerging public health threats such as childhood obesity, healthcare-associated infections, motor vehicle injuries, and prescription drug overdoses.

Public Health Law Program

The Public Health Law Program (PHLP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) works to improve the health of the public by developing law-related tools and providing legal technical assistance to public health practitioners and policy makers in state, tribal, local, and territorial (STLT) jurisdictions.

PHLP works with STLT public health departments and other partners to

- Identify public health law priorities
- Research laws that impact the public's health
- Analyze public health legal preparedness
- Conduct comparative analyses across jurisdictions
- Draft guidance, articles, reports, and toolkits
- Develop and disseminate public health law curricula

PHLP Services and Technical Assistance

Attorneys and public health advisors in PHLP can provide guidance, research, and analysis to health departments struggling with legal issues such as the review of enabling laws, shared service delivery, data sharing and other cross jurisdiction agreements, health information privacy, and emergency preparedness.

PHLP has experience with helping jurisdictions of all sizes and can bring a national perspective to local issues. PHLP can help STLT health departments access the wealth of scientific knowledge and experience at CDC and provide recommendations at the intersection of law, policy, and science. Request assistance at www2.cdc.gov/phlp/infoInquiry.asp.

Collaboration

PHLP works colleagues in a variety of disciplines, including public health practitioners; elected officials; attorneys in public health, health care, and related specialties; members of the law enforcement, judicial, and emergency management communities; researchers; and educators. In cases where we may not have expertise within PHLP, we have access to a nationwide cadre of public health law experts. PHLP staff facilitates collaboration within the public health law community through a listserv, contact directories, and training sessions.

Public Health Law News

The CDC Public Health Law News is a monthly email digest of current news stories, court opinions, and special features on public health law, legislation, and policy.

Sign up today!

www.cdc.gov/phlp

Resources

In the current economy, many STLT health departments have had to cut costs and leverage scarce resources. PHLP, together with partners across the country, can provide scalable assistance and a variety of practical resources that public health departments and partners can use to assess and strengthen public health laws. Many of these resources can be implemented at minimal financial cost and customized to the needs of individual jurisdictions.