

RWJF Mission



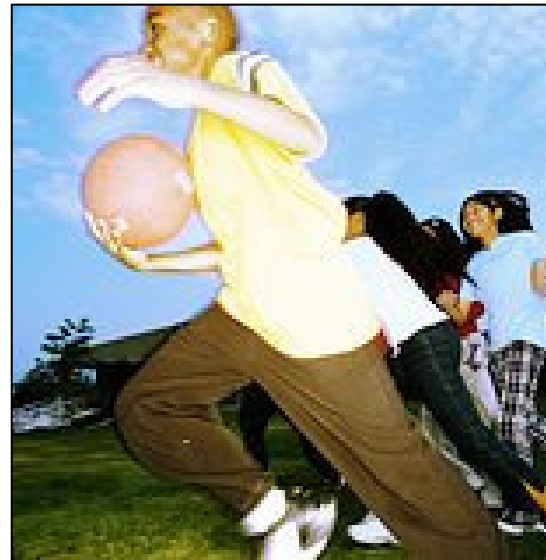
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

**To improve the
health and
healthcare of all
Americans**



RWJF – Public Health Team

**Our goal:
*To improve
the quality
and impact of
Public Health***



Federal Public Health Powers



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Legislative Branch: Enacts laws, establishes federal public health programs and services, appropriates funds

Executive Branch: The President and Federal Agencies enforce the law and issue regulations

Judicial Branch: The Federal Court System interprets the law and resolves disputes

Federal Authority comes from:

- The Constitution
- United States Code (USC)
- Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)
- Executive Orders

State Public Health Powers



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States mirror the Federal structure:

- There are 50 state legislatures that enact state laws
- State executive enforces law and issues state regulations
- State judiciaries interpret the law and resolve disputes

State authority comes from:

- Federal Law
- State Constitutions
- State Statutes
- State Regulations
- Executive Order by Governor

Local Public Health Powers



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Legal powers granted by state legislatures, which regulate municipal governments

Local authority comes from:

- State governments
- Charters
- Ordinances

Local ordinances have been effective in promoting the public's health

- Adoption of smoke-free ordinances
- Menu labeling requirements

Why is Public Health Law Important?



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- **Public health laws preserve, protect and improve the population's health**
 - Law is as essential as surveillance
 - Law can change behaviors, environments, and social norms
 - Law strengthens public health agencies' authority and increases flexibility to meet community needs
- **The effective application of law – statutes, regulations, case law and policies – can reduce injury, prevent disease, save lives, and reduce health care costs**

Ten Greatest Public Health Achievements of the 20th Century



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- **Infectious Disease Control**
- **Motor Vehicle Safety**
- **Coronary Heart Disease /Stroke**
- **Fluoridation**
- **Tobacco Control**
- **Vaccination**
- **Safer/Healthier Food**
- **Maternal/Child Health**
- **Family Planning**
- **Safer Workplaces**

* Source: CDC Public Health Law Program



RWJF Investments in Public Health Law



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Learning Collaboratives, Surveys and Needs Assessments

- Turning Point: Modernizing public health statutes
- ASTHO: Using law to describe state/local structures and relationships
- NALBOH: State statutory authority for local boards of health
- Public Health Law Association : Building capacity, enhancing communication linkages, and training in public health law



Legal Analysis, Policy Research, and Translation

- Substance Abuse Policy Research: Policy research to reduce alcohol, tobacco and drug use
- Healthy Eating Research: Building evidence to prevent childhood obesity
- Active Living Research: Developing policies to promote active living
- Public Health Law Research: Making the case for laws that improve health



Legal Technical Assistance and Training

- Provide legal analysis, technical assistance and training
- Product development (e.g. White Papers, Bench Books)
- Addressing needs and gaps in the field
- Creating regional linkages and facilitating collaboration
- Build network of PH law experts to link to practitioners

Emerging Legal Issues in Public Health



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Accreditation

- Creating legal conditions to support statewide accreditation

Regionalization

- Legal issues surrounding regional collaborations and shared services between jurisdictions

Food Safety

- Implementation of federal and state food safety legislation and regulations

Legal Capacity at the State/Local Level

- Addressing the technical assistance and legal analysis needs of local health departments



Questions?

