

PHLR PUBLIC HEALTH LAW RESEARCH
Making the Case for Laws that Improve Health

Healthy Public Policy Recommendations

The Infrastructure for Identifying and Diffusing
Laws that Improve Health

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Presenter Disclosures

Presenter for Abstract 336395

(1) The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

“No relationships to disclose”

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Recommendations: Just the First Link in the "Policy Evidence Translation Supply Chain"

Evidence and Expertise

More about this later ...


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Recommendations: It's About Time

The diagram illustrates a cyclical process. It starts with a purple circle labeled 'Evidence' (Research & Data) with a document icon. An arrow points to a green circle labeled 'Influence' (Policymakers & Leaders) with a person icon. Another arrow points to an orange circle labeled 'Action' (Laws & Policies) with a hand icon. A final arrow points to a large blue circle labeled 'BETTER HEALTH' with a heart and plus sign icon. A clock icon is positioned to the left of the 'Evidence' circle.


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The Ideal Compendium of Recommendations

- Would be comprehensive → one stop shop for generalists who don't live in silos
- Be consistent → providing policy recommendations in all relevant domains
- Be accessible in all the important senses of the term


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The Ideal Policy Recommendation

- Clearly describes the policy action and at what level(s) it should be taken
- Details the base of evidence or expertise on which it rests
- Lists where it has already been adopted and where action is still needed

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How Are We Doing?

Resources for Policy Surveillance

A report prepared for the
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Public Health Law Program


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Making the Case for Laws that Improve Health

Public Health Law Research is a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

- Scan of federal recommendations, conducted for CDC PHLP (2014)
 - Healthy People 2020
 - Prevention Status Reports
 - Community Guide
 - Winnable Battles

<http://ssrn.com/abstract=2567695>


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Findings

- One hundred and four distinct legal interventions were identified across the four sources.
 - Addressed health concerns, including tobacco, mental health, obesity, urban planning, vaccinations, health-care acquired infections, education, HIV/AIDS, Medicaid expansion, prescription drugs/accidental overdose, alcohol use, child care/safety, crime prevention, vehicle and bicycle safety, and food safety/nutrition.


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Gaps and Inconsistencies

Explicit Legal Intervention	Healthy People 2020	Winnable Battles	Prevention Status Report	Community Guide for Preventive Services
Deploy sobriety checkpoints		X		X
Increase state beer excise tax		X	X	X
Increase state distilled spirits excise tax		X	X	X
Increase state wine excise tax		X	X	X
Adopt seat belt laws that apply to everyone in the car		X	X	X
Adopt zero tolerance laws for drinking and driving		X		
Require the primary enforcement of seatbelt laws		X	X	X
Ensure that fines for not wearing a seat belt are high enough to be effective		X		
Increase the number of States and the District of Columbia with laws requiring bicycle helmets for bicycle riders	X			
Maintaining limits on hours of sale (alcohol)				X
Require 0.08% blood alcohol concentration (BAC) laws				X
Local authority to regulate alcohol outlet density			X	X
Preventing excessive alcohol consumption: enhanced enforcement of laws prohibiting sales to minors				X
Reducing alcohol-impaired driving: lower BAC laws for young or inexperienced drivers				X
Reducing alcohol-impaired driving: maintaining current minimum legal drinking age				X
Maintaining limits on days of sale (alcohol)				X
No privatization of retail alcohol sales				X
Enact and enforce state pain clinic law			X	
Prescription drug management programs following best practices			X	
Commercial host (dram shop) liability laws			X	X
Pharmacist collaborative drug therapy management policy			X	
Require universal motorcycle helmet laws				X
Tobacco				
Increase the proportion of persons covered by indoor worksite policies that prohibit smoking	X	X	X	X
Establish laws in States and the District of Columbia on smoke-free indoor air that prohibit smoking in private worksites	X	X	X	X
Establish laws in States and the District of Columbia on smoke-free indoor air that prohibit smoking in public worksites	X	X	X	X
Establish laws in States and the District of Columbia on smoke-free indoor air that prohibit smoking in restaurants	X	X	X	X

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- ## Links to Evidence Base and Status of Adoption
- Community Guide and Prevention Status Reports clearly identify the evidence base
 - Winnable Battles and HP 2020 not so much
 - Prevention Status Reports most consistent in linking to information on current status of the law
 - But policy surveillance generally weak
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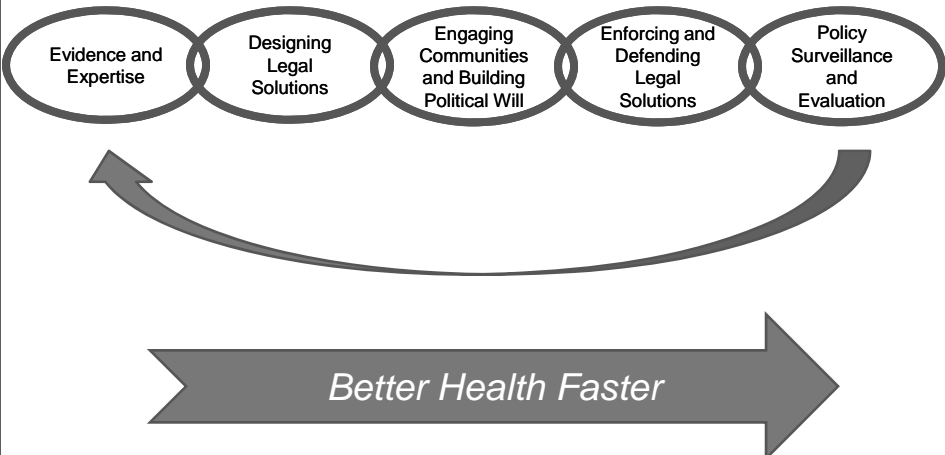
Moving towards the Ideal

- Develop better/standard practices for ensuring that policy interventions are identified and considered consistently
- Improve access to evidence summaries
- Practice policy surveillance

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Five Essential Public Health Law Services



Evidence and Expertise

Designing Legal Solutions

Engaging Communities and Building Political Will

Enforcing and Defending Legal Solutions

Policy Surveillance and Evaluation

Better Health Faster

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