Introduction to Public Health Law and Legal Epidemiology
These course materials are for instructional use only and are not intended as a substitute for professional legal or other advice. While every effort has been made to verify the accuracy of these materials, legal authorities and requirements may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Always seek the advice of an attorney or other qualified professional with any questions you may have regarding a legal matter.

The contents of this presentation have not been formally disseminated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and should not be construed to represent any agency determination or policy.
PHLP’s Mission:

To advance the understanding and use of law as a public health tool.
Consider the types of laws that affect health

- Law that builds and maintains social, economic and physical worlds
- Law that defines structures
- Law that is an intervention tool
How do we know when laws (and policies) work?
Complicated public health issues require nuanced legal solutions.
Prepare for and respond to emergencies or outbreaks
Create and maintain complete streets
Discourage unhealthy choices... or encourage healthy ones
Law as a factor that affects health
Law as a factor that affects health
Natural (or Observational) Experiments

Optimal conditions for evaluating law

Source: LawAtlas.org
Scientific study and deployment of law as a factor in the cause, distribution, and prevention of disease and injury in a population.
Foundational Principles

- Scientific
- Systematic
- Transparent
- Replicable
- Precise
- Measurable
Legal Mapping

A process for capturing important features of laws and policies, and for identifying how they vary across jurisdictions or institutions, and over time.
Using Legal Mapping Findings for Legal Evaluation

Quantitative

- Compares datasets from law and health
- Uses policy surveillance

Qualitative

- Identifies discrete impacts
- Uses cross-sectional data
Using Legal Epidemiology

In Public Health Practice
Legal Data Informs the Public

CDC report says people in four key cities are listening to stay at home orders

By Elizabeth Cohen and Wesley Bruer, CNN

Updated 2:26 AM ET, Tue April 14, 2020

Explore more data at ephtracking.cdc.gov/DataExplorer
Legal Epi Tracks Progress

How the social distancing efforts played out in San Francisco

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Source: CDC

The Washington Post
Legal Epi Shows What Works (and What Doesn’t)

Behavioral therapy rates before and after implementation of a prior authorization policy for ADHD medications in Illinois
HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS

Improving Your Access to Electronic Health Records During Outbreaks of Healthcare-associated Infections

A TOOLKIT FOR HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

The purpose of this toolkit is to help professionals working in local, state, and territorial health departments have better access to the electronic health record (EHR) systems in healthcare facilities (e.g., hospitals, outpatient clinics, surgical centers, etc.) during outbreaks, including outbreaks of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs).
A Model for Building Legal Epidemiology Capacity

Best practices in law and policy

Information

Infrastructure

Support

Improved Health Outcomes
The STLTS Project: Moving from Research to Practice
For more on PHLP and Legal Epidemiology:

▪ Submit a technical assistance request to PHLP at www.cdc.gov/phlp/technicalassistance or email us at phlawprogram@cdc.gov

▪ Visit our website to learn about our program and available resources: www.cdc.gov/phlp

To Learn More about Public Health Law at CDC, please visit: www.cdc.gov/phlp

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The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
For more information:
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Thank you!