Resource Guide for Protecting Public Health Authority

This guide is a list of relevant resources on public health authority and the mechanisms commonly used to protect public health and the ability for public health to act.

# Public Health Authority

These resources set the stage for what public health authority is, why it is under attack, and the important role it plays in the field of public health as a whole.

* [What is Public Health Authority](https://actforpublichealth.org/public-health-authority/) FAQ from Act for Public Health
* [Fact Sheet: An Emerging Threat to Public Health Authority](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ce4377caeb1ce00013a02fd/t/606f1b978ab96f787479ef22/1617894295384/LSSC_EmergingThreat_April2021.pdf)- ChangeLab Solutions and the Local Solutions Support Center (LSSC) outline why public health authority needs our attention
* [Proposed Limits on Public Health Authority: Dangerous for Public Health](https://www.naccho.org/uploads/downloadable-resources/Proposed-Limits-on-Public-Health-Authority-Dangerous-for-Public-Health-FINAL-5.24.21pm.pdf), This report from Network for Public Health Law and NACCHO highlights state-level efforts to roll back or severely limit the authority of public health agencies, which will impact their ability to protect the public from serious illness, injury, and death both during and long after the COVID-19 pandemic
* [Underfunded and Under Threat: Over Half of States Have Rolled Back Public Health Powers in Pandemic](https://khn.org/news/article/over-half-of-states-have-rolled-back-public-health-powers-in-pandemic/) A KHN review of hundreds of pieces of legislation found that, in all 50 states, legislators have proposed bills to curb such public health powers since the COVID-19 pandemic began
* [State & Local Public Health: An Overview of Regulatory Authority](https://publichealthlawcenter.org/sites/default/files/resources/phlc-fs-state-local-reg-authority-publichealth-2015_0.pdf)- This publication, from Public Health Law Center, provides common questions and answers about the role of state and local public health departments and boards of health in public health regulation

## Legislation and Litigation

These reports and databases house some examples of legislation and litigation that have impacted public health authority between since 2019.

* Explore [the law atlas](https://lawatlas.org/datasets/sentinel-surveillance-laws-limiting-public-health-authority), a state by state analysis of laws that limit the authority of a governor, state health agency, or state health official, regarding public health emergency orders
  + For a summary of these data you can check out the Center for Public Health Law Reserach’s [policy brief](https://phlr.org/sites/default/files/uploaded_images/PolicyBrief_SentinelSurveillanceLLPHEO-May2022.pdf)
* [50 state survey summary of bills introduced to limit public health authority](https://www.networkforphl.org/resources/50-state-survey-summary-of-bills-introduced-to-limit-public-health-authority/)- The Network for Public Health Law
* [50-State Survey: Legal *Protections* for Public Health Officials](https://www.networkforphl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/50-State-Survey-Legal-Protections-for-Public-Health-Officials.pdf)- The Network for Public Health Law
* [State Laws Limiting Public Health Protections: Hazardous for Our Health](https://www.networkforphl.org/resources/state-laws-limiting-public-health-protections-hazardous-for-our-health/)- this report produced by the Network as part of the Act for Public Health initiative, examines laws impacting public health authority that have been passed as of May 20, 2022 and provides analysis of how they significantly weaken the collective ability of public health to respond effectively in future pandemics and other emergencies, and to carry out day-to-day public health activities
* [‘It’s a tsunami’: Legal challenges threatening public health policy](https://www.politico.com/news/2022/05/10/legal-challenges-cdc-public-health-policy-00031253?fbclid=IwAR03HQ2hUg1gieK986FSY-YDnKIuXaOuiRjaY3Ak3rn_LiwoGokxra79xYc)- this article by POLITICO provides an overview of litigation that has and will impact the field of public health
* NCSL: [State Action on Coronavirus (COVID-19)](https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/state-action-on-coronavirus-covid-19.aspx) Database. National Conference of State Legislatures brings you up-to-date, real-time information about bills related to and responding to COVID-19 that have been introduced in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

✉️ [Join the Act for Public Health email list](https://www.publichealthlawwatch.org/actforpublichealth/litigationtracking) for monthly litigation tracking reports!

## Preemption

Preemption is a prominent strategy used by higher levels of government to limit public health authority and ability to act. These resources shed more light on why preemption can be detrimental to public health, and how to combat abusive preemption.

* [What Is Preemption?](https://www.supportdemocracy.org/what-is-state-preemption)- Local Solutions Support Center defines preemption, and outlines how it has been used specifically to harm BIPOC communities, the LGBTQ+ communities, poor communities, immigrants and other communities that have been systematically denied resources
  + [Preemption of Public Health Authority](https://www.supportdemocracy.org/issuespecific-preemption-guides/preemption-of-public-health-authority) This page sheds more light on how preemption has been used to harm public health authority
  + [View preemption resources by topic](https://www.supportdemocracy.org/overview-resources)
* Fact Sheets from ChangeLab Solutions on connecting preemption, public health & equity
  + [Fundamentals of Preemption](https://www.changelabsolutions.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/Fundamentals_of_Preemption_FINAL_Accessible-PDF-for-Screen_20200608_0.pdf)
  + [Consequences of Preemption for Public Health & Equity](https://www.changelabsolutions.org/sites/default/files/2020-08/Consequences_of_Preemption_FINAL_Accessible_20200710.pdf) explains how preemption can have a profound effect on health, equity, and well-being
* [Assessing & Addressing Preemption: A toolkit for local policy campaigns](https://www.changelabsolutions.org/product/assessing-addressing-preemption) ChangeLab Solutions created this resource to help policymakers and advocates understand how preemption affects local public health policy campaigns

📩 [Sign up](https://voicesforhealthykids.org/take-action/sign-up) for updates on preemption from Voices for Health Kids

## Advocacy

These resources highlight what we can do to protect public health and public health authority: advocate!

* [Public Health Advocacy: The Basics](https://www.changelabsolutions.org/product/public-health-advocacy-basics) ChangeLab answers the question: How can public health practitioners engage in advocacy even when faced with restrictions on lobbying? In their 1 hour training
* [Advocacy Trainings](https://voicesforhealthykids.org/campaign-resources/trainings#:~:text=Past%20Training%20Sessions)- view the recordings of trainings that Voices for Healthy Kids has put on on the best strategies for advocacy in different topic areas related to health
* [Preserving Local Public Health Powers: How to resist policy efforts to limit public health authority](https://www.changelabsolutions.org/product/preserving-local-public-health-powers) These 2 fact sheets created by ChangeLab Solutions explain how communities can identify, understand, and resist potential legislative and other legal limitations on local public health powers
* [Advocacy Toolkit](https://www.naccho.org/uploads/downloadable-resources/Advocacy-Toolkit-May-2021.pdf)- this guide developed by NACCHO has all you need to know about advocacy, including key dates in the lawmaking calendar
* [Advancing Prenatal-to-Three Policies: A Guide to Finding Commonalities and Solutions with Decision-Makers](https://voicesforhealthykids.org/guides/advancing-prenatal-to-three-policies-a-guide-to-finding-commonalities-and-solutions-with-decision-makers/introduction) This guide created by VfHK and Met Group is an initial glimpse into a broader advocacy toolkit that explores advocacy using common conservative archetypes.

📲Share this [call to action](https://standwithpublichealth.jhsph.edu/) on your social media

## Communications

These communications tools can equip you with the messaging strategies and materials you need to effectively advocate for public health within your networks, communities and with elected officials.

* [Making the case for Public Health Authority](https://www.changelabsolutions.org/news/making-case-public-health-framing-and-language-recommendations)- this training and related resources from BMSG and ChangeLab solutions can help you craft impactful messages about public health to whomever you’re communicating with
  + [Worksheet: Message development](http://www.bmsg.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/bmsg_message_development_worksheet.pdf)
* These messaging toolkits from Local Solutions Support Center can help you craft strategic messages on the impact of abusive state preemption based on your audience
  + [How to Message the Abuse of State Preemption](https://www.supportdemocracy.org/the-latest/new-resource-connecting-the-dots-how-to-message-the-abuse-of-state-preemption)
  + [Communication Toolkit for Organizers Tackles Preemption of Public Health Authority](https://www.supportdemocracy.org/the-latest/new-communication-toolkit-for-organizers-tackles-preemption-of-public-health-authority)
  + [Talking about Preemption to Different Audiences](https://www.supportdemocracy.org/the-latest/new-messaging-resource-talking-about-preemption-to-different-audiences)
* [Championing public health amid legal and legislative threats](https://www.bmsg.org/resources/publications/championing-public-health-amid-legal-and-legislative-threats-framing-and-language-recommendations/)- Berkeley Media Studies Group and ChangeLab Solutions created framing and language recommendations to craft strategic messages to different audiences
* Voices for Healthy Kids: [Campaign Resource Library](https://voicesforhealthykids.org/campaign-resources/resource-library) (Users can filter by priorities and select preemption efforts)
  + [Preemption Graphics](https://voicesforhealthykids.org/resources/preemptions-graphics)
  + [Preemption Video](https://voicesforhealthykids.org/resources/preemptions-video)
  + [Preemption Message Manual](https://voicesforhealthykids.org/resources/preemption-message-manual)
  + [Preemption Key Messaging](https://voicesforhealthykids.org/resources/preemption-key-messaging)
  + [Fast Facts for Preemption](https://voicesforhealthykids.org/resources/fast-facts-for-preemption)
  + [Preemption Message Wheel](https://voicesforhealthykids.org/resources/preemption-message-wheel)
  + [Preemption One-Pagers](https://voicesforhealthykids.org/resources/preemptions-one-pagers)
  + [Preemption Case Studies](https://voicesforhealthykids.org/resources/preemptions-case-studies)
  + [Preemption Creative Toolkit](https://voicesforhealthykids.org/resources/preemption-creative-toolkit)