

Description of *Law and the Public's Health*: A *Public Health Reports* Column

Background

Public Health Reports (PHR) is the official journal for the U.S. Public Health Service and the Surgeon General. *PHR* is the oldest journal of public health in the U.S., publishing since 1878. It is distributed and read widely in the public health community. *PHR* publishes research and practice articles, as well as viewpoint essays and commentaries.

Law and the Public's Health

This column addresses legal developments that affect the public's health. The column explores statutory and regulatory developments in both federal and state laws that affect public health policy-making and practice, as well as judicial decisions interpreting the law that have a major impact on the way that law is understood and applied in public health policy development and practice. The goal of this column is to help public health practitioners and policy makers understand those aspects of the law that bear on the public's health.

Legal professionals in both public health practice and academic settings are strongly encouraged to submit manuscripts. Of particular interest are jointly authored submissions by multidisciplinary groups of authors who reflect both legal and public health policy and practice skills.

Specific Requirements

Manuscripts should not exceed 2,000 words in length and should contain:

- A **one-paragraph introduction** that explains briefly what topic is being addressed and notes that the analysis will be followed by a brief discussion of the implications of the legal, development for public health policy and practice.
- A **background** explaining the issue,
- A **description**, written with as little legal verbiage as possible, of the law or ruling, and
- A discussion of the implications of the law or ruling for public health practice.

Submission Process

Manuscripts should be submitted as one inclusive attachment to *Public Health Reports*, Attn: *Law and the Public's Health*, at manuscripts@publichealthreports.org. Notification of receipt will be sent via e-mail. Please specify *Law and the Public's Health* in the submission. The manuscript will undergo an external peer-review process if approved by the editorial board of *Public Health Reports*.

Prospective authors should feel free to contact Professor Sara Rosenbaum, column editor for *Law and the Public's Health*, to ask if a particular topic would be encouraged for submission. Her e-mail address is sarar@gwu.edu.