

**TITLE:** Survey of County Attorneys on an Oregon Public Health Law Center

**AUTHOR(S):** Will Kurka, Craig Mosbaek

**PRESENTER(S):** Will Kurka, Craig Mosbaek

**STUDENT SUBMISSION:** Yes

**TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE:** County health department staff who work on policy issues.

Public health professionals interested in an Oregon public health law center

**ABSTRACT:** Background: Public health law centers conduct legal analyses and research to enhance efforts to use law and policy to improve population health. Much of the innovation and progress in public health policy occurs at the city, county, or state levels. Enacting laws to improve health at the city, county and state levels requires specific knowledge of the state's legal landscape.

Methods: Telephone surveys were conducted of county attorneys in Oregon.

Results: County attorneys generally agreed that a public health law center would be a valuable resource. Common public health law issues were those related to tobacco and privacy of health records. In addition, county attorneys desired more assistance in addressing the opioid epidemic. Almost all the county attorneys said that they would prefer the resource of an Oregon public health law center versus a nationally-based center.

Discussion: An Oregon public health law center could provide tailored materials and technical assistance to public health practitioners around the state. This type of state-based center would increase the reach and augment the assistance currently provided by the national-level public health law programs by providing additional analyses based on the state's statutes and public health environment.

**OBJECTIVE(S):** Understand the needs of county attorneys on public health law.

Understand the benefits of an Oregon public health law center.

**PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION:**

cmosbaek@gmail.com, Center for Evidence-based Policy