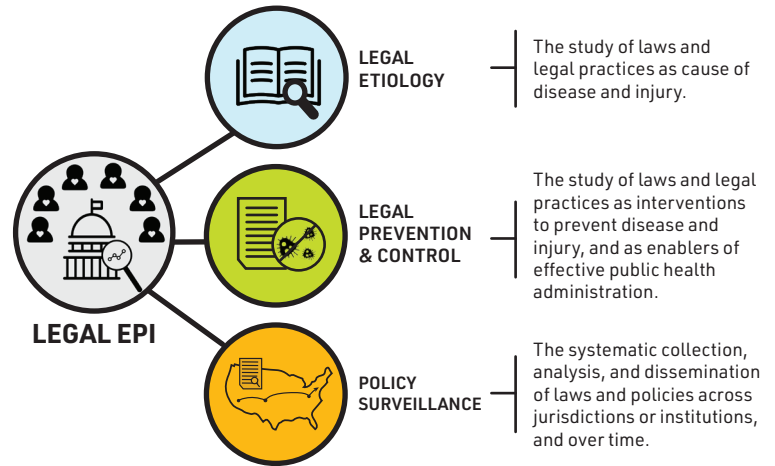


LEGAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

The scientific study and deployment of law as a factor in the cause, distribution, and prevention of disease and injury in a population.

Legal epidemiology encompasses legal etiology, legal prevention and control, and policy surveillance theory and methods to

- **Measure** the nature and distribution of laws across jurisdictions and over time.
- **Evaluate** the implementation and impact of legal interventions on public health, and the health effects of non-health laws.
- **Analyze** the implementation and impact of laws defining health department powers and duties.
- **Enable and support** the rapid diffusion of healthier laws and policies.



WHO USES LEGAL EPIDEMIOLOGY?

Legal epidemiology is deeply rooted in a **transdisciplinary approach** to public health law – calling for **true integration of disciplines to collaborate in developing and applying legal epidemiology theory, methods, and conceptual tools**. The consumers of legal epidemiology are just as diverse as the practitioners, and include lawyers, researchers, epidemiologists, social scientists, policymakers, public health practitioners, advocates, the media, and the public.

LEGAL EPIDEMIOLOGY IN PRACTICE: SIX STEPS



1. Engage

Identify a public health problem or a policy of interest through feedback from the community, subject matter experts, and policymakers.



2. Identify research needs

Review existing research and identify gaps to inform new research on laws and policies.



3. Create legal data

Conduct a legal mapping study to create empirical legal data that can be compared across jurisdictions and over time.



4. Analyze

Complete a legal evaluation study to analyze the relationship between law and health using empirical legal data linked to outcome data.



5. Translate

Publish and communicate findings to inform public health practice, decision-making, and public knowledge via agencies, academia, decision-makers, advocates, media, and the public.



6. Monitor and repeat

Continue monitoring and measuring legal changes and engaging with the community and stakeholders about the impact of laws, repeating previous steps as legal changes arise.