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A Different Take on Policy Surveillance: Policy Inventory in Nebraska

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• Research Team
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  – Darrell Klein, Colleen Svoboda

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Accessing the Law?
Using the law
Need for Legal Datasets

- Policy surveillance
  - Tracking laws over time
  - Tracking laws across jurisdictions
  - Examining legal provisions in a particular topic area
Need for Information on Law

• Policy Inventory
  – What does the law say?
  – How does the law impact my authority to act?
• **Scope of Laws**
  – Everything in state and local law
  – Not just topic specific

• **Data Collection**
  – Nebraska team collected laws
  – Temple team verifies

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**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-5716 Act, how cited.**
Sections 71-5716 to 71-5734 shall be known and may be cited as the Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-5717 Purpose of act.**
The purpose of the Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act is to protect the public health and welfare by prohibiting smoking in public places and places of employment. The act shall not be construed to prohibit or otherwise restrict smoking in outdoor areas. The act shall not be construed to permit smoking where it is prohibited or otherwise restricted by other applicable law, ordinance, or resolution. The act shall be liberally construed to further its purpose.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-5718 Definitions, where found.**
For purposes of the Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act, the definitions found in sections 71-5719 to 71-5720 apply.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-5719 Employed, defined.**
Employed means hired, contracted, subcontracted, or otherwise engaged to furnish goods or services.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-5720 Employee, defined.**
Employee means a person who is employed by an employer in consideration for direct or indirect monetary wages, profit, or other remuneration.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-5721 Employer, defined.**
Employer means a person, nonprofit entity, sole proprietorship, partnership, joint venture, corporation, limited partnership, limited liability company, cooperative, firm, trust, association, organization, or other business entity, including retail establishments where goods or services are sold, who or which employs one or more employees.
• Defining questions
  – generalizability

• Data Coding in *Workbench* on LawAtlas.org
Bodies of Law Covered

- Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs
- Chronic Disease & Injury
- Environmental Health
- Foodborne Illness
- Structure & Governance
- Health Professions & Licensure
- Disasters & Emergencies
- Maternal Health, Children & Families
- Nutrition & Physical Activity
- Vital Statistics
- Mental & Behavioral Health
- Seniors & Aging
- Disabilities
NEBRASKA’S LAWATLAS SYSTEM

Available at: www.lawatlas.org/nebraska

Nebraska Public Health Laws

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NE DHHS) provides public health services to Nebraskans and promotes public health by implementing laws and regulations that address health issues, track health outcomes, and certify and license health professionals.

This section of LawAtlas tracks laws and regulations that relate to NE DHHS’s core mission. Below are links to pages that provide contextual information and texts of relevant laws and regulations on key functions of the NE DHHS. Select one of these options below for more information on the specific topic area and to access the surveillance of key public health laws and regulations.

- Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs
- Chronic Disease and Injury
- Disabilities
- Disasters and Emergencies
- Environmental Health
- Foodborne Illnesses
- Health Professions Licensure
- Maternal Health, Children, and Families
- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Seniors and Aging
- Structure and Governance
- Vital Statistics

Available at: www.lawatlas.org/nebraska
• How to find PH laws? Respondents looked up the law themselves (29%), used Google (51%), used the Department of Health website (40%) or the state legislative website (60%).

• Requests for additional resources include: online directory of laws (84%), in-person workshops (89%) or live webinars (85%) and an online certificate program in public health law (74%).
Evaluation of PH Law

- Integration of legal dataset with existing surveillance data within the health department
  - Clean indoor air laws with data on secondhand smoke exposure and infractions of the law
Thank you

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