



Evaluation of Temple
University's Center for Public
Health Law Research (CPHLR)
Policy Surveillance Program
(PSP)

Evaluation Report – June 2022

Vital Statistics Consulting, LLC

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Executive Summary

Background and objectives. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) provides support to Temple University's Center for Public Health Law Research (CPHLR) Policy Surveillance Program (PSP) toward the goals of activating policy research and assisting key stakeholders (i.e., scholars/educators, advocates, public-health and legal practitioners, policymakers) to identify and track policy trends that may influence population health and health equity. To encourage such ends, PSP has cultivated the emergent trans-disciplinary field of legal epidemiology¹⁻³ and produces a number of critical services and other assets, among them data creation, maintenance, and dissemination services, legal mapping (of which policy surveillance is a type), training, technical assistance (TA), and technology development to support coding and data sharing. CPHLR/PSP is moreover the dominant academic partner within a nucleus of organizations and institutions that reside within a larger ecosystem of organizations seeking to advance evidence-based policymaking.

Vital Statistics Consulting (VSC) was engaged from September 2021 through May 2022 by RWJF and CPHLR to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of PSP's reach and impact. The evaluation included but was not limited to four main PSP components, namely: (1) legal data curation and dissemination through the LawAtlas and PDAPS websites (<https://lawatlas.org>; <https://pdaps.org>); (2) legal data production through the MonQcle platform; (3) training in legal epidemiology and policy surveillance methods; and (4) building the field and discipline of legal epidemiology. These PSP activities and resources are designed to support the overarching goal of promoting evidence-based policy making that improves population health and advances health equity.

Evaluation design. VSC used a mixed-methods design that triangulated findings from several quantitative and qualitative data sources, including: a survey to solicit feedback from users of PSP resources and potential users who work in public health law and related fields; key informant interviews with stakeholders; focus groups with CPHLR staff engaged in PSP activities and RWJF staff overseeing related grant programs; PSP resource content; and web analytics on LawAtlas website activity.

Findings and recommendations. Taken as a whole, the findings from this evaluation suggest that PSP's resources – especially the legal datasets, maps, and policy surveillance trainings – are highly valued by users for their accessibility, rigor, and quality. Both quantitative and qualitative findings indicate that PSP's outreach efforts have been most successful at engaging academic researchers in public health, legal scholarship, and related fields, but less successful with stakeholders in government, public health practice, advocacy and media.

The findings also highlighted the significant growth of the field of legal epidemiology in recent years in addition to activities in the field that are most important to stakeholders, such as being able to track changes in the law and develop evidence-based policy recommendations toward improved population health. However, despite the growth of the field, stakeholders noted several challenges in pursuing projects within the legal epidemiology space, such as: insufficient funds to pursue research projects; the labor-intensiveness of legal coding projects; a lack of understanding of the field among colleagues; perceptions that public health researchers did not have the substantive expertise to code legal data; and limited opportunities to integrate legal epidemiology into one's career trajectory.

As highlighted by PSP leaders and CPHLR staff, several strategic priorities have been identified for PSP's next phase of development. These priorities focus on both technical and infrastructural developments, including but not limited to:

- Revamping the LawAtlas website to address such needs as improved accessibility and search capability.
- Expanding the functionalities of MonQcle to make it more user-friendly and flexible.
- Integrating machine learning/artificial intelligence into legal coding as a means of reducing the labor intensiveness of legal epidemiology research and accelerating data updates.
- Increasing PSP's communications capacity to strengthen dissemination and outreach efforts, including through the addition of new communications personnel.

By and large, the findings of this evaluation suggest that the priorities already identified by PSP leadership are well aligned with the needs of those who use PSP resources – especially LawAtlas users and MonQcle subscribers – as well as individuals who might use them more readily with improved user-friendliness and functionality. These strategies hold promise to further expand the reach and effectiveness of PSP's resources and remove some of the technical barriers to adoption of legal epidemiology as a discipline. Additional mechanisms may be needed to further support career pathway development in legal epidemiology and to continue to break down disciplinary silos that affect the application of PSP's methods and resources.

I. Introduction

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- (1) legal data curation and dissemination through the LawAtlas and PDAPS websites (<https://lawatlas.org>; <https://pdaps.org>);
- (2) legal data production through the MonQcle platform;
- (3) training in legal epidemiology and policy surveillance methods; and
- (4) building the field and discipline of legal epidemiology.

These PSP activities and resources are designed to support the overarching goal of promoting evidence-based policy making that improves population health and advances health equity.

The evaluation conducted by VSC used a mixed-methods approach that triangulated findings from several quantitative and qualitative data sources, including:

- An online survey to solicit feedback from users of PSP resources and potential users who work in public health law and related fields
- Key informant interviews with stakeholders, including academic researchers, lawyers, public health practitioners, and advocates
- Focus groups with CPHLR staff engaged in PSP activities and RWJF staff overseeing related grant programs
- PSP resource content, including lists of publications using LawAtlas data sources
- Web analytics on LawAtlas website activity

This evaluation report presents the findings across data sources on each of the four PSP components, presenting a holistic view of the most salient findings and providing actionable recommendations for the next phase of PSP's development. We first present a summary of the evaluation framework developed by VSC, research design and methodology.

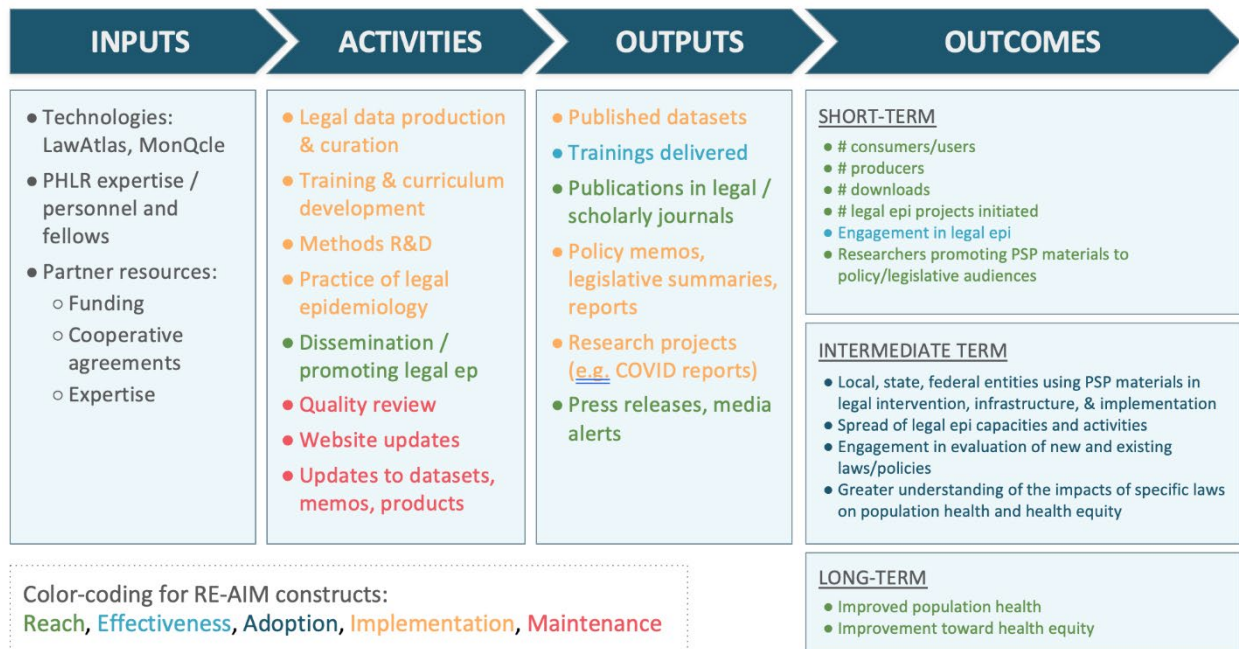
II. Evaluation Design and Methods

Framework and objectives

To guide the evaluation design, VSC developed a conceptual framework that integrates the logic model of PSP⁴ with the RE-AIM Framework for program evaluation in public health (<https://www.re-aim.org>), which considers the reach, effectiveness, adoption, implementation, and maintenance of the program as key domains in evaluation. The framework integrates these constructs of RE-AIM as dimensions of measurement within a logic model outlining the inputs, activities, outputs, and outcomes of PSP.

The purpose of using RE-AIM as part of the framework was to ensure that important evaluation constructs were covered in a holistic fashion. Some key measures may be characterized as more than one dimension of RE-AIM. Moreover, some intermediate and long-term outcomes are shown in the proposed framework given their importance to PSP’s mission; though they are outside the scope of the current evaluation, they are shown here for contextual purposes.

Figure 1. Evaluation Framework



The evaluation aimed to achieve the following objectives, with reference to the RE-AIM domains and constructs represented in our proposed evaluation framework:

- Describe the *reach* and *adoption* of PSP in terms of the types and volume of users, producers, products, and initiation of legal epidemiology projects.
- Assess the *effectiveness* of PSP in terms of knowledge of and engagement in legal epidemiology as outcomes of the program.
- Describe the facilitators of and barriers to successful *implementation* of PSP’s goals and *maintenance* of PSP’s technologies and resources.

Data sources

The primary sources of data used to address these objectives were: an online survey designed by VSC to solicit feedback from users of PSP resources and potential users who work in public health law and related fields; key informant interviews with stakeholders; and focus groups with CPHLR staff engaged in PSP activities and RWJF staff overseeing grant programs. PSP resource content and web analytics on LawAtlas were used to supplement and contextualize findings from the primary data sources.

User/potential-user survey. The user/potential-user survey was designed to assess types of use (including the LawAtlas.org and PDAPS.org websites and the MonQcle platform), use intensity/frequency, users' professional and academic backgrounds, user goals and use-case applications, satisfaction with products, resources, and technologies, and user engagement in legal epidemiology and intended PSP applications. Users were defined as respondents who report using any of the resources provided on the LawAtlas and/or PDAPS websites and/or the MonQcle platform. Potential users were defined as respondents who reported working in public health law or related fields, but did not indicate use any of the resources offered by PSP. The survey included a combination of structured items and a small number of questions with free-text responses. Branching logic and skip patterns were used to tailor the survey to respondents with varied types of PSP resource use (or lack thereof), including a section on use of other public health law resources for respondents who did not use PSP products but were involved in relevant fields. The survey was hosted in the Alchemer platform for online survey administration. The survey instrument is attached as an appendix to this report for reference (Appendix I).

Survey recruitment cast as wide a net as possible, targeting several groups of stakeholders as potential sampling sources, including: (1) MonQcle Users (roughly 1,000 individuals); (2) LawAtlas email marketing subscribers; (3) training webinar attendees; (4) PSP Institute attendees; (5) project collaborators/clients; (6) researchers using PSP data; and (7) non-users or potential PSP users. Lists of contact information for each type of user group was obtained from the PSP leadership team to establish sampling frames. Survey invitations to all PSP user/collaborator groups were sent via email through CPHLR's contact management system, on behalf of PSP's leadership team, to optimize participation by leveraging the name recognition of PSP's leaders among potential participants. This invitation reached approximately 2,500 individuals, with a direct link to the Alchemer survey platform included in the email. The survey went live on January 24, 2022, and closed on March 15, 2022. In the week prior to closure, an additional invitation was sent with an offer of a \$10 gift card provided by VSC to the first 30 respondents to complete the survey at that time.

Potential PSP users working in related fields were contacted through the following professional associations: the Law Section of the American Public Health Association (APHA); the Network for Public Health Law (NPHL); and the National Association for County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). The survey invitation was sent via email to an additional 525 individuals via the APHA Law Section and 17 individuals through NACCHO. Outreach to NPHL was through their newsletter; the number of individuals reached through this method was uncertain.

Qualitative data sources. Instruments and protocols for qualitative data collection were developed in collaboration with RWJF and CPHLR leadership. Key informant (KI) interviews were conducted

with 25 stakeholders sampled from a range of sectors and types of experiences developing and/or using public health law resources. The purpose of these interviews was to provide use case examples of PSP's products/technologies and gain insight into PSP's reach and effectiveness, strengths and weaknesses of the products and technologies, and areas for improvement and development.

The KI sample included CPHLR leaders, academic researchers in public health and related fields, legal professionals, and individuals working in advocacy. Potential participants not affiliated with CPHLR were identified in collaboration with PSP leaders, drawing from lists of collaborators, authors on publications using LawAtlas datasets, and subscribers to PSP resources. Interview invitations were sent on behalf of PSP leaders to optimize responsiveness by leveraging stakeholders' existing relationships with CPHLR. VSC scheduled and conducted all interviews via Zoom; each interview lasted approximately 1 hour and was audio-recorded.

In addition to the KI interviews, two focus groups were conducted to gain further insight into strategic planning and programmatic needs of PSP. One focus group was conducted with four CPHLR staff members, including a special projects manager, a program manager, and two legal and policy analysts. The second was conducted with four staff members from RWJF, including a senior policy adviser, a senior policy officer, and two senior program officers. Each focus group was conducted via Zoom, lasting 1 hour, and was audio-recorded.

Data analysis

Analysis of the user/potential-user survey relied primarily on descriptive frequencies and cross-tabulations; given sample size limitations, hypothesis testing was not feasible. Nevertheless, the survey results provided valuable information in combination with the qualitative findings. Web metrics on LawAtlas usage were extracted from the Google Analytics platform and analyzed descriptively to supplement user survey findings specific to LawAtlas. This analysis focused primarily on metrics extracted for the calendar year of 2021 and selected 2020 metrics used for comparison. Additional supplemental insights were gained through a word cloud analysis of selected PSP resources, namely: (1) topics covered in datasets published on LawAtlas; and (2) manuscript titles of published articles using datasets published on LawAtlas.

To analyze the qualitative data, the evaluation team developed a coding structure guided by the RE-AIM concepts as they applied to each of the four key substantive areas for evaluation: (1) legal data curation and dissemination through LawAtlas.org and PDAPS.org; (2) legal data production through the MonQcle platform; (3) PSP trainings; and (4) field building in legal epidemiology. Within each of these substantive areas, we present qualitative themes as they related to PSP's reach, effectiveness, adoption, implementation and maintenance, where applicable.

Although qualitative data was collected within each of the RE-AIM constructs, this report presents a selection of themes within each of the evaluation areas. Our goal in this selection is to highlight the most salient findings that may support and enhance efforts that are currently underway – including, but not limited, to the revamp of LawAtlas.org and further development MonQcle and supporting technologies –

while identifying areas for development that may not already be integrated into PSP’s existing strategic plan.

Participant sample characteristics

User/potential-user survey sample. A total of 108 individuals responded to the survey, with 92 reached through the PSP contact lists and 16 through the non-user/potential-user outreach methods. The 92 respondents reached through the PSP contact lists represent 3.7% of the total number of individuals who received the survey invitation email from CPHLR (N=2,469) and 10.3% of individuals who opened the email upon receipt (N=896), as indicated in CPHLR’s contact management system. The response rate represented by the 16 individuals reached through other methods (APHA, NPHL, and NACCHO) is less clear due to uncertainties about the number of individuals who received NPHL’s newsletter.

Organizational affiliations and professional roles of respondents are shown in Figures 2 and 3, respectively. (Note: Respondents were given the option to check all that applied for their type of affiliation and their role; thus categories for each question sum to more than 100%.) The majority of respondents were affiliated with a university or college (62.3%), with another 17.5% affiliated with a government agency, 14.9% with a research organization, and 11.4% with an advocacy organization.

Figure 2. Organizational Affiliation(s) of Survey Respondents (N=108)

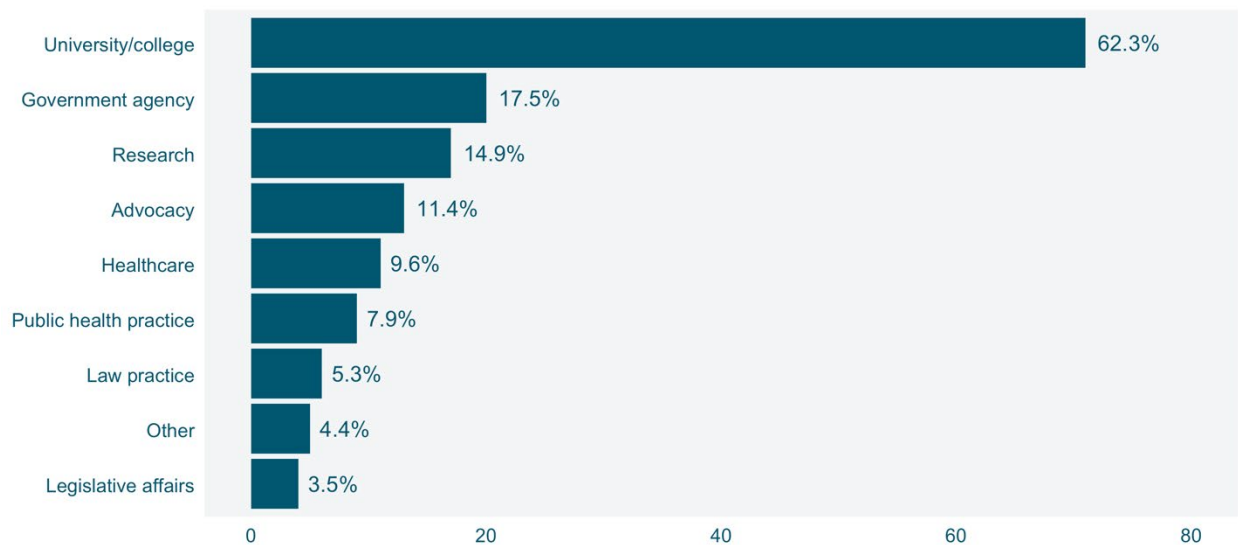
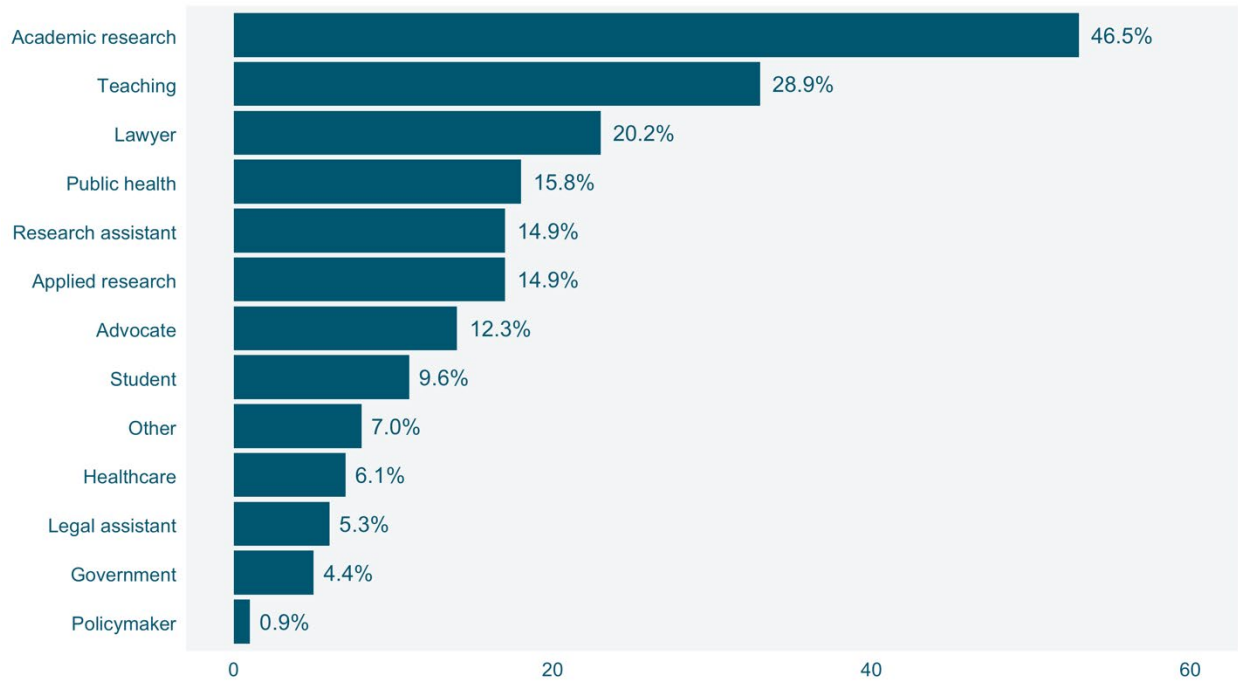
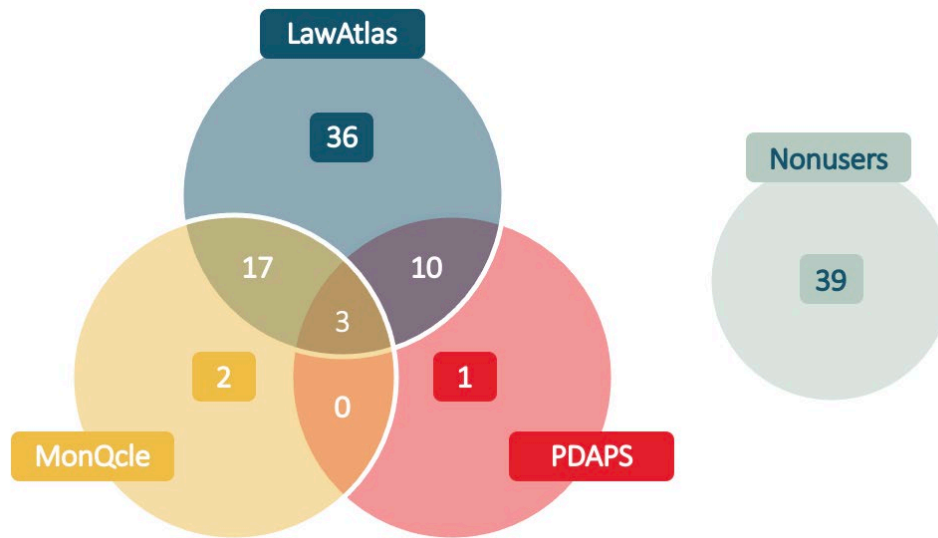


Figure 3. Professional Role(s) of Survey Respondents (N=108)



Among the 108 survey respondents, 66 people reported having used LawAtlas, 14 had used PDAPS, and 22 had used MonQcle (Figure 4). This suggests that the respondent sample had a greater concentration of individuals who were primarily front-end consumers of legal data and related products (via LawAtlas and/or PDAPS) rather than back-end producers of legal datasets (via the MonQcle platform). Nevertheless, there were 20 respondents who could be described as both a user and producer of legal data. An additional 39 respondents had not used any PSP resources, but used other sources of legal information – most commonly, LexisNexis, WestLaw, and the Network for Public Health Law.

Figure 4. Types of PSP Resource Use Among Survey Respondents (N=108)



Key informant (KI) interview sample. The sample of 25 KIs included 4 of PSP’s leaders and 21 individuals external to PSP leadership, recruited from several sectors and types of organizations. Although the recruitment strategy aimed to draw from a variety of sectors, some sectors proved more challenging to reach than others, especially media. Table 1 displays the distribution of organizational affiliations among KIs; note, once again, that participants could select more than one option as applicable. The distribution of participants’ professional role(s) mirrored the distribution of organizational affiliation, with roughly half working in academic research/teaching. Additionally, 43% (N=9) were lawyers and 19% (N=4) worked as legal analysts or assistants.

Table 1. Organizational Affiliation(s) of KIs (N=21, external to PSP leadership)

Organizational affiliation	Count	Percent
University/college/community college	10	48%
Government agency	4	19%
Advocacy	3	14%
Law practice	3	14%
Public health practice	2	10%
Research (foundation/private)	2	10%
Legislative affairs	1	5%
Media	0	0%
Other	2	10%

**Note: KIs were given the option to select more than one organizational affiliation (check all that apply).*

KI participants varied in the roles they played on projects that used policy surveillance data or resources (Table 2), which was important for gaining insight into different perspectives on PSP resource application and use-case experiences. Additionally, the majority (76%) of KI participants reported having worked on public health law research and/or policy surveillance projects for more than two years.

Table 2. Primary Role on Projects that Use Policy Surveillance Data or Resources (N=21 KIs external to PSP leadership)

Primary role	Count	Percent
Project leadership or direction (such as principal investigator, funder)	13	62%
Project support, implementation, analysis, or reporting	6	29%
I have never worked on a project, but I have used the findings from these studies for reporting and/or advocacy	2	10%
Total	21	100%

A list of the names and affiliations of KI interview participants who wished to be acknowledged in this report is attached as an appendix (Appendix II).

III. Findings: Legal Data Curation and Dissemination on LawAtlas and PDAPS

This section of the report presents the evaluation findings on LawAtlas and PDAPS, reflecting user experiences as front-end consumers of legal datasets, maps, and related products curated and disseminated by PSP. The findings draw on several data sources, including web analytics metrics generated by Google Analytics for LawAtlas, PSP resource content, the user survey, and key informant interviews.

Web Analytics for LawAtlas.org

The evaluation team extracted the web analytics metrics generated by Google Analytics for the LawAtlas website for the calendar year of 2021; selected web traffic and user metrics are shown in Table 3. Although some of the standard web metrics produced by Google Analytics may be difficult to interpret, selected measures may be useful in benchmarking and tracking the performance of the LawAtlas website, particularly as PSP leadership launches the revamped website in the coming months. For example, it may be beneficial to track the ratio of new visitors to returning visitors, as well as the proportion of website sessions with a duration of 10 minutes or longer, as indicators of user engagement. The findings shown below may be used as baseline indicators in tracking selected website performance going forward.

In 2021, there were a total of 34,497 LawAtlas.org users recorded in Google Analytics, 89.5% of which were new visitors and 10.5% were returning visitors. While the overall number of visitors decreased by 33.6% from 2020, the total engagement was in fact greater in terms of number of sessions per user (+5.6%), number of pages per session (+5.2%), average session duration (+10.0%), and decreased bounce rate (-2.8%). Most visitors appear to be young professionals or students, with more than 50% of them aged 18-34.

Table 3. LawAtlas.org Web Traffic and User Metrics for 2021

Web traffic	
Total users	34,497
New visitors*	34,349
Returning visitors	4,020
Total sessions	45,765
Sessions per user	1.33
Geographic locations of users	
U.S.	86.9%
China	3.8%
Pathway to visiting LawAtlas.org site	
Directly to LawAtlas.org	56.0%
Through organic search (e.g. unpaid Google search)	38.6%
Audience engagement/ behavior	
Average session duration	00:01:33
<10 seconds	35,413

11-60 seconds	3,567
1-3 minutes	2,411
3-10 minutes	2,193
10+ minutes	2,181
Bounce rate	74.00%
Pages per session	1.81
Page views	82,844
User demographics (among users with such features enabled)	
Age (N=12,350)	
18-24	25.5%
25-34	27.4%
35-44	17.0%
45-54	12.2%
55-64	9.2%
65+	6.7%
Gender (N=13,123)	
Female	61.4%
Male	38.6%

**Note: Google Analytics defines a “new visitor” as someone who visits the site for the first time within the specified timeframe (e.g. calendar year 2021). Someone classified as a new visitor can also be included in the count of “returning visitors” if the person returns to the website within the timeframe of interest.*

Sources of traffic. In terms of web traffic, the majority of both new and returning visitors access LawAtlas.org via direct traffic, i.e., by typing the URL directly into the browser (56.0%) rather than through unpaid organic search engines, such as Google Chrome or Bing (38.6%). Notably, nearly 10% of all returning visitors accessed LawAtlas.org via referrals, most of them coming from phlr.org, ncbi.nlm.nih.gov, propublica.org, and reproductiverights.org. However, few new visitors found their way to CPHLR resources through such referrals. Additionally, only 1.1% of all visitors arrive via social media channels, most coming from Twitter (38.5%), Facebook (33.7%), and Reddit (15.71%). Interestingly, while LinkedIn is generally seen as a hub of academics and professionals that are likely to be interested in topics associated with Legal Epidemiology, fewer than 5% of all social media landings were from this network. Increasing LawAtlas.org presence on LinkedIn might therefore be a potential avenue to increase professional user engagement.

User behavior. Users that click on more than one page (i.e., do not exit after the landing page) are more likely to find themselves on the ‘topics’ page from which they are likely to exit. This indicates a potential lack of engagement in topics of particular interest to the user. Making the ‘topics’ page more user-friendly and engaging might prompt visitors to continue browsing. Of all the datasets published on LawAtlas.org, the most often visited ones are “Syringe Distribution Laws,” “State Abortion Laws,” “State Fair Housing Protections,” “Syringe Possession Laws,” “Registered Nurse Scope of Practice,” and “Syringe Service Program Laws.”

While the top three most common terms in the dataset topics were *abortion*, *gas*, and *oil*, the top three terms in the publication titles were *opioid*, *drugs*, and *use*, followed by several other drug-related terms, as well as *abortion*. This suggests that the most popular topics among researchers using LawAtlas datasets are not necessarily the same as the topics with the greatest presence on the LawAtlas site. This insight highlights a potential need for a substantive refocusing on PSP’s data curation and dissemination efforts in areas showing greater interest among researchers, thereby making the most efficient use of program resources.

Survey findings

A total of 66 survey respondents reported using LawAtlas; 14 reported using PDAPS, with 13 of the PDAPS users also having used LawAtlas. Survey findings reported here focus primarily on LawAtlas use. (Given the small group having reported using PDAPS, results for the user experience questions had cell sizes too small to produce meaningful insights.) The distribution of organizational affiliations for LawAtlas and PDAPS users was similar to that of the full survey sample, with the most common affiliations being academic institutions (70%), government agencies (20%), and research organizations (17%).

LawAtlas users varied in their frequency of use (Figure 7), with 41% having used LawAtlas 1-2 times within the past 12 months, and 30% using it 3-6 times. Over half of LawAtlas users had been using the site for more than two years (Figure 8), while 27% used it for 1-2 years. This suggests that a substantial proportion of users continue to meaningfully engage with the LawAtlas resources once they start using the site.

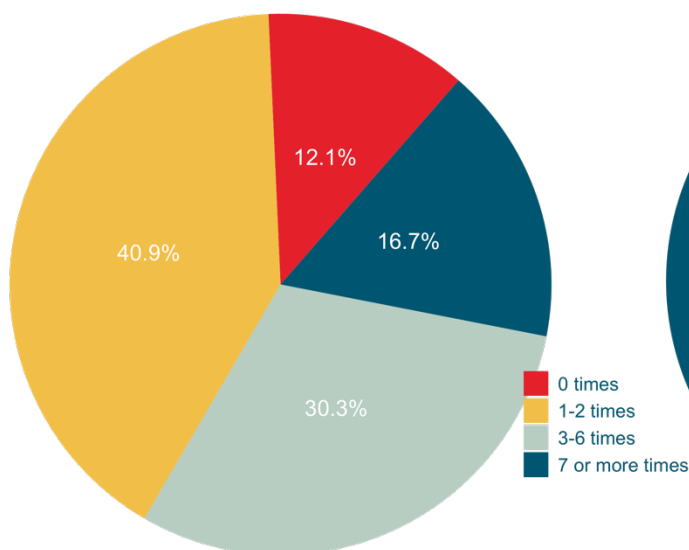


Figure 7. Frequency of LawAtlas Use in the Past 12 Months (N=66)

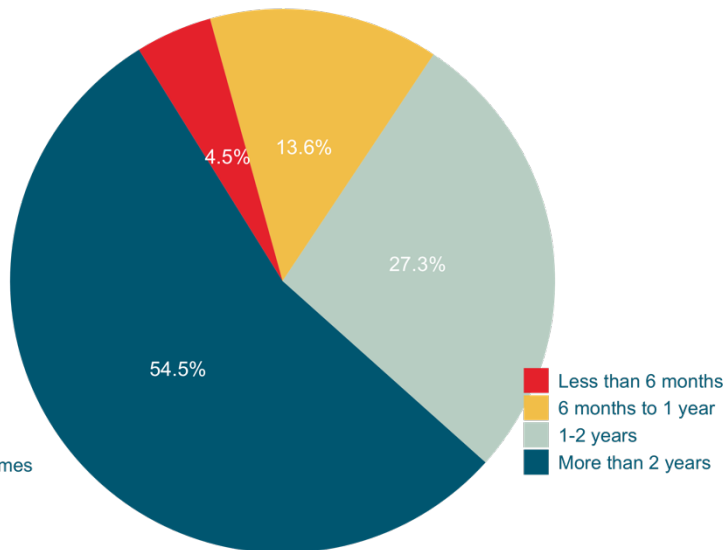
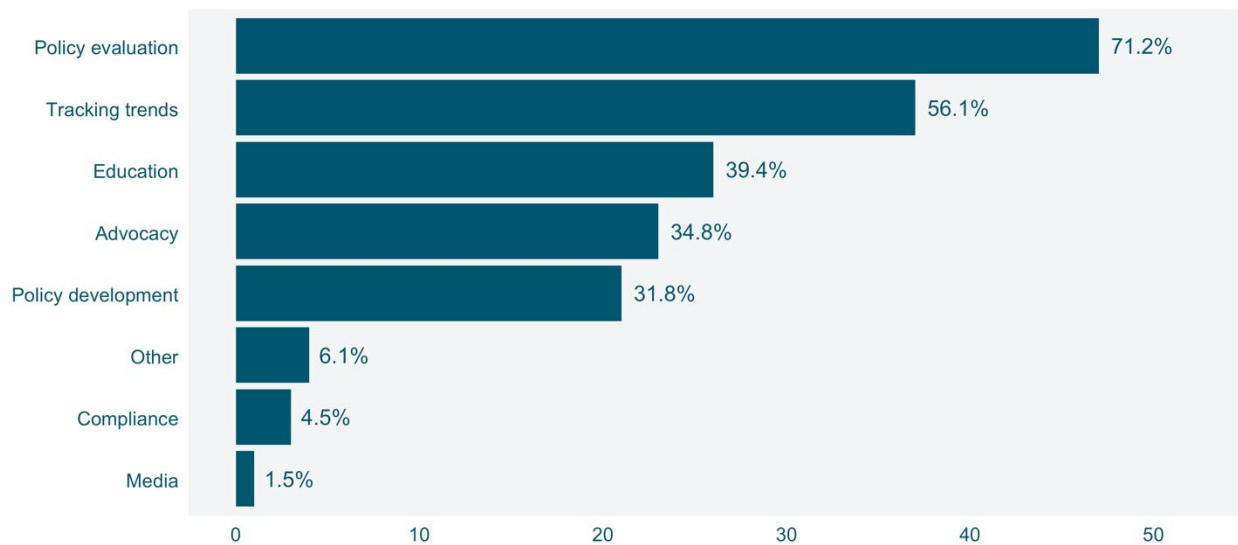


Figure 8. Duration of LawAtlas Use (N=66)

LawAtlas users most commonly reported using the information for policy evaluation purposes (71%), followed by tracking trends in the law (56%), education (39%) and advocacy (35%) (Figure 9). Among the

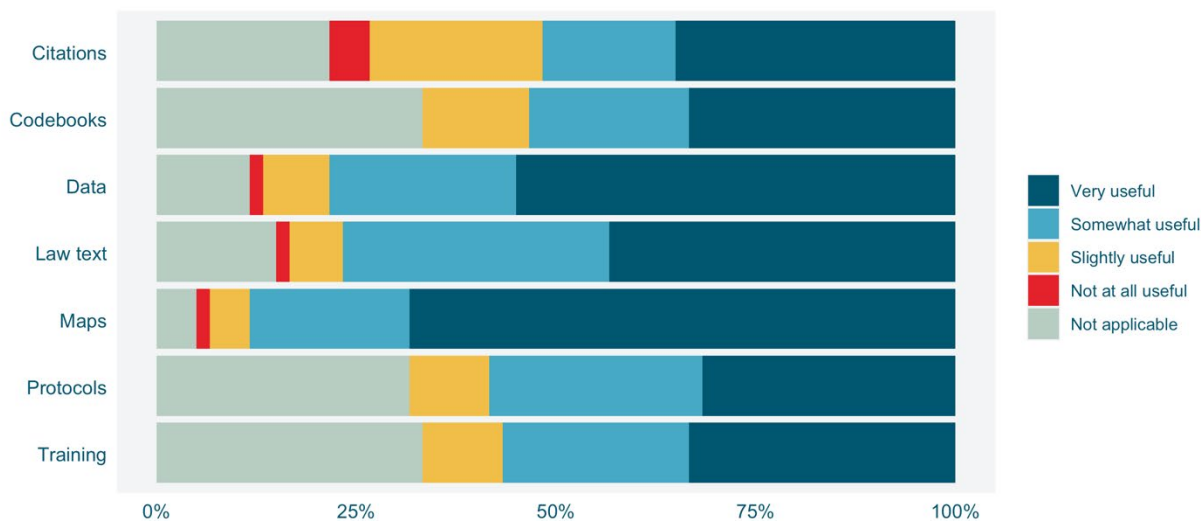
6% who reported “other” reasons for using LawAtlas, free-text responses included: “public health research,” “as a cite for grants,” “public health research,” “personal education,” and “reading.” Respondents reported using a variety of sources of public health law information in addition to LawAtlas and PDAPS, with the most frequently reported sources being the Network for Public Health Law (used by 47% of LawAtlas users), the National Conference of State Legislatures (44%), ChangeLab Solutions (33%), WestLaw (27%), and LexisNexis (18%).

Figure 9. Reasons for Using Public Health Law Information among LawAtlas Users (N=66)



When asked about the usefulness of products available on LawAtlas, users reported that the most useful materials were the legal maps, followed by datasets and texts of the law (Figure 10). Codebooks, protocols, and trainings had larger proportions of users for whom these products were not applicable, although roughly half of respondents found each of these products to be somewhat or very useful. This finding is not surprising, given the greater concentration of LawAtlas users in the respondent sample, who are primarily consumers of legal datasets, relative to MonQcle users, who are more likely to have used codebooks, protocols and trainings in the production of legal datasets.

Figure 10. Respondent Perspectives on Usefulness of LawAtlas products (N=66 LawAtlas users)



Qualitative findings: Overview

Common themes across the KI interviews and feedback received on the user survey included the need for more real-time updates to the data and improved search capabilities on the LawAtlas website. For academic researchers, real-time data updates may be less crucial, but for uses outside of academia (e.g., advocacy, ongoing legislative needs), having access to the most current data is critical. Some participants mentioned the challenges of connecting datasets accessed through LawAtlas with data on health outcomes, and a lack of comfort in how to approach such a connection methodologically.

Some issues emerged with regard to communications, including: a lack of clarity about website links to other organizations and whether these affiliations/partnerships are with non-profit or for-profit entities; the need for a mechanism to provide feedback to CPHLR on data issues; and more broadly, the need for greater awareness among advocacy groups and other organizations about the availability of LawAtlas resources.

Selected RE-AIM Themes

Reach: Accessibility of LawAtlas is a strength; expanding communications is key. Participants highlight the accessibility of LawAtlas resources and ease of using the data as strengths of the website, for example:

“LawAtlas has changed the whole field by making the legal data available. If someone has questions on e.g., ADHD access, the maps and tools are available for anyone. That was not possible before LawAtlas. That is great and is an amazing tool!” [Public health analyst]

Additionally, having citations and text of the law immediately available was noted as a significant strength. One participant gave an example of searching for laws about drug paraphernalia, noting that he

can find citations on LawAtlas and use that information to find the text on WestLaw. Another participant stated:

“LawAtlas is very good at citing particular law and policy right in the maps. This is key. Both these projects [LawAtlas and Movement Advancement Project] do a good job with that.” [Public health practitioner]

Despite the accessibility of LawAtlas, its lack of recognition as a source of quality data and other products was noted by participants, who indicated that professionals in numerous sectors who could benefit from LawAtlas resources are not using it. For example:

“People don’t even know about LawAtlas as a resource. ...Make accessing the data easier. This is a low hanging fruit because more people just need to see the data... Figure out how to get people to know about LawAtlas and how to access the data. They need to understand how strong the research is behind the LawAtlas maps. There is a strict oversight process and protocol and more science behind this information than on other sites.” [Advocate, Lawyer]

“Forget about getting more data bases. Even just trying to get more researchers to use the existing data would be an expansion opportunity.” [Academic/Research]

When asked which other sectors should be reached, participants highlighted other public health researchers, government officials, health care/insurance professionals, and legal professionals working in advocacy. For example, a KI working in advocacy and legal practice noted:

“More government officials/agencies –such CMS, State departments of Health— should know about these resources. They look at laws and need statutes and need citations. They are citing Guttmacher and Kaiser surveys that are not as strong methodologically as LawAtlas.” [Advocate, Lawyer]

Effectiveness: Rigor, reproducibility and data visualization are strengths; data currency and cultural relevance are important areas for development. Participants commonly noted that the rigor and reproducibility of the data provided on LawAtlas were extremely high, lending credibility to analytic findings and recommendations. As one participant stated, “It is very reproducible and complete with data, codebook, protocols.” Another participant stated, “LawAtlas is the gold standard because of the research methodology.” Specific features that instilled participants’ confidence in the data included transparency in the methodology, quality control processes, and knowing that data creation was led and supervised by individuals with legal expertise, as distinct from those in advocacy or trade organizations.

Participants also recognized the value of data visualizations - specifically, legal mapping made available on LawAtlas. The following statement highlighted the utility of visualizations in translating legal data into digestible information that can inform the policymaking process:

“The visualizations are great with the feedback and filters. It’s great. ... While dated research at the time, the visualization tools were so helpful to show to a broader audience of policy makers to help them see and understand the laws broken down by regions. It was a really powerful tool—much different from a long, written legal memo. It helped the group make policy choices.” [Advocate, Policymaker, Lawyer]

Participants also noted some limitations in the LawAtlas resources. Perhaps the most commonly noted limitation was outdated datasets, the result of changes in state laws. “The constant change in state laws makes the data set out of date given the lag to produce them. Then it is less useful and people would be less likely to turn to LawAtlas. This is a major challenge.” As acknowledged by PSP leaders in KI interview discussions, as well as CPHLR staff during the focus group, the capacity to maintain up-to-date datasets is largely resource-driven and dependent upon funding availability for specific projects. Moreover, the labor intensiveness of ongoing legal coding poses a significant challenge to updating datasets.

A policy area identified as needing development in LawAtlas pertains to laws affecting the health of LGBTQ individuals, and ensuring that attention given to such laws is culturally relevant. This is notable given the centrality of promoting health equity to the mission of PSP, the increased visibility of legislative debates surrounding LGBTQ issues, and the growing body of public health research focused on the LGBTQ population. Although LawAtlas includes a section that is labeled as pertaining to LGBT issues, the only dataset within that section is on criminalization of HIV, which is not uniquely an LGBT issue; this dataset may be more appropriately placed solely within the infectious disease section of the website, while other salient topics affecting LGBT populations should be considered for development.

IV. Findings: Legal Data Production in MonQcle Platform

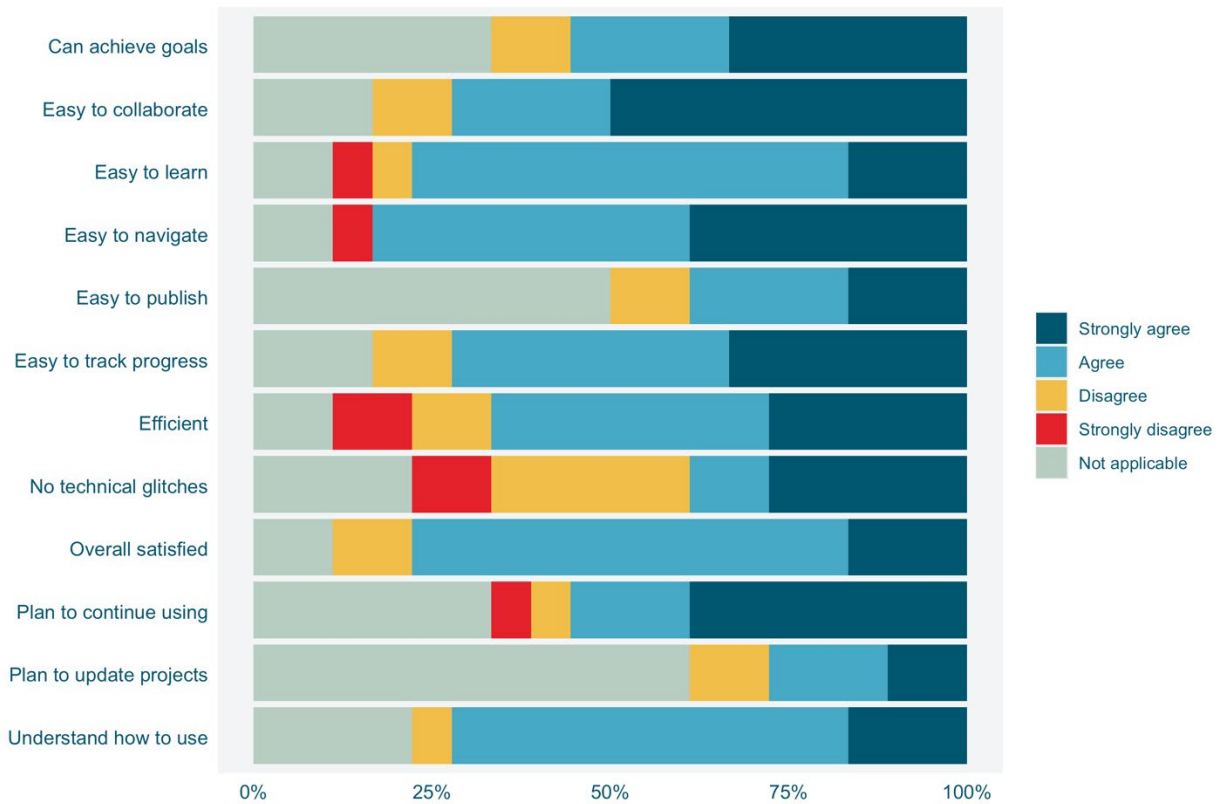
The following section presents findings on the perspectives of MonQcle users, representing the back-end data production experience in the MonQcle platform. Data sources for these findings include the user survey and key informant interviews.

Survey findings

Among the 22 survey respondents who reported using MonQcle, 73% were affiliated with a university or college, 18% with a government agency, and 14% with a research organization. A distinguishing feature of the MonQcle user group was that a greater proportion indicated working in the role of research assistant (36%), which was less common among LawAtlas and PDAPS users. The mean number of data production projects initiated by respondents was 1.6, with a range from 1 to 5. The mean number of datasets published was 1.3, ranging from 1 to 3.

When asked about their satisfaction with MonQcle (Figure 11), most users agreed that the platform was easy to learn, navigate, and use for collaboration. The areas of weakest agreement included the statement that there are “no technical glitches,” that it is easy to publish the data produced, and that the user plans to update projects.

Figure 11. Responses to Statements About MonQcle User Experience (N=22)



When asked to provide free-text responses on what they like and dislike most about MonQcle, respondents provided markedly divergent feedback. While some users reported that MonQcle was user friendly, easy to navigate, intuitive to use, had “everything right there,” and “makes coding seamless,” other respondents reported that the platform was prone to technical glitches, inefficient and slow to use, and “not necessarily intuitive.” Two survey respondents mentioned “cloning” as an area for improvement, for example: “Better cloning process is needed. The dataset does not interact well with each other. That is something that can be very useful for analysis. It is very slow.”

The divergence in user satisfaction raises the question of whether there are distinct differences in the professional backgrounds of those who are enthusiastic about MonQcle and those who found more difficulties using it. This question cannot be addressed with the small sample of MonQcle users who responded to the survey (N=22), as the types of internal comparisons needed – such as by age group or professional affiliation – would have subgroups too small to draw meaningful inferences.

Qualitative findings

Among key informants who discussed using MonQcle, we observed a similar divergence between those who found the platform to be user friendly and easy to navigate and those who encountered more difficulties. A common theme among key informants was the barriers to engaging in data production efforts, including: the cost of a MonQcle subscription; the resource- and labor-intensive nature of data production efforts; and inadequate collegial support and collaboration for such efforts within academic departments and/or organizations. Relatedly, participants frequently raised questions about the type of expertise needed to code the law and the belief that researchers require a legal background to produce legal data. This theme also emerged as a key finding pertaining to field building in legal epidemiology.

Select RE-AIM Themes

Adoption: Cost of MonQcle and labor-intensiveness of coding are barriers to adoption; partnerships and translation resources are key to addressing barriers. Several participants in academic settings expressed that they wanted to do more work in legal data creation and analysis projects, but did not have sufficient collegial support and collaboration. For example, one participant stated that she is new in her academic position and would need to establish a team of graduate students to create datasets to study different laws and policies; moreover, as the only person in her department doing this type of work, and as new faculty member, she found it difficult to establish such a team and supportive partnerships.

Another participant highlighted how partnerships in legal coding could support the development of legal epidemiological work on laws affecting LGBT health, a gap that was identified in LawAtlas. The participant recommended a partnership with the LGBT Movement Advancement Project organization (LGBTmap.org) that would move their existing datasets to MonQcle so that the data can be shared, potentially expanding use and motivating collaborations. The participant noted that the staffing requirements necessary for data sharing and harmonization lend themselves to partnerships, facilitating opportunities for like-minded institutions to support the project, allowing both organizations to share their data and legal maps on their individual websites in a cross-sharing arrangement.

Participants outside of academia additionally noted that they needed support and resources to explain the importance of their efforts in policy surveillance to colleagues and other stakeholders. For example, a participant working as a public health practitioner and advocate stated that, while he has laid the groundwork for policy surveillance projects, he has not had the opportunity to fully pursue them. He noted that it would be helpful to have information to explain to his board of directors the relevance of policy surveillance and legal epidemiology to his work. “Materials that support that conversation of obtaining institutional buy-in would be helpful.”

V. Findings: Training in Policy Surveillance and Legal Epidemiology

This section of the report presents findings related to trainings provided by PSP in policy surveillance and legal epidemiology. Data sources included selected questions in the user survey and experiences described by participants in key informant interviews.

Survey findings

Among 92 survey respondents who completed questions about the field of legal epidemiology, 66% answered that they “strongly agree” that there is a need for scientific training in this field, and 29% answered that they “agree.” When asked to provide free-text input on what they liked most about PSP’s resources, some respondents mentioned the policy surveillance trainings. For example, one respondent mentioned the need for “Ongoing policy coding and legal epidemiology trainings,” while another respondent stated, “Thank you for making the training so accessible.”

Qualitative findings

A common theme across both free-text responses in the survey and KI interviews was that the trainings are accessible, rigorous, of high quality, and highly valued by trainees, but trainees do not have frequent opportunities to apply the knowledge gained in their work. A key recommendation focused on the need for training in how to translate legal epidemiological findings for applied audiences.

Selected RE-AIM Themes

Reach and effectiveness: Accessibility and quality of PSP training allow for successful application of rigorous legal epidemiology methods; additional training on translation would be valuable. Among participants who discussed their experiences with the PSP training, it was widely acknowledged that the training was accessible, rigorous, and provided the methodological tools they needed to successfully carry out legal epidemiology and policy surveillance projects. One participant described how the training provided a necessary foundation for her dissertation research. She stated that before learning about PSP’s resources and training, she had an idea that she wanted to do policy surveillance work, but did not know anyone in the field; the training provided the framework and tools to do the work. “It’s been great! It was great to have an organized discipline for this work.”

Some participants identified a need for training in translation of legal epidemiological findings for policy makers and stakeholder audiences. For example, an academic researcher mentioned that, while she is trained in writing scientific manuscripts, she would like to learn how to make her findings more accessible to policy makers.

“It could be in the form of a policy brief or more non-academic document. The information could be translated to actionable findings to change policy...any communication that makes the results more accessible, but still emphasizes that the results are more robust.” [Academic researcher]

Another participant working as a public health analyst stated that she would like to see more emphasis on applied methods that cater to an applied public health audience, expanding beyond a scientific audience. This suggestion is aligned with the observation noted among academic researchers that translation of scientific evidence for applied audiences - e.g., policymakers, advocates, and other stakeholders - is an important area for development in PSP trainings and resources.

Adoption: Trainees do not always have opportunities to consistently use legal epidemiology methods. In some cases, training recipients used PSP training to develop methodologies required for a specific project, but did not have opportunities to continue using the methods, even when such recipients were interested in further pursuing this type of work. One survey respondent noted, “I don’t have much opportunity to use this training in my work, but I’m most interested in policy analysis.” One key informant completed several PSP training courses while in law school, and remained interested in doing policy surveillance work, but did not have opportunities in her current role in legal practice to apply the skills she had gained. Consistent with the barriers identified in the use of MonQcle, barriers to using policy surveillance include limited funding, institutional resources, and opportunities for collaboration, which pose constraints on trainees’ ability to apply the knowledge gained.

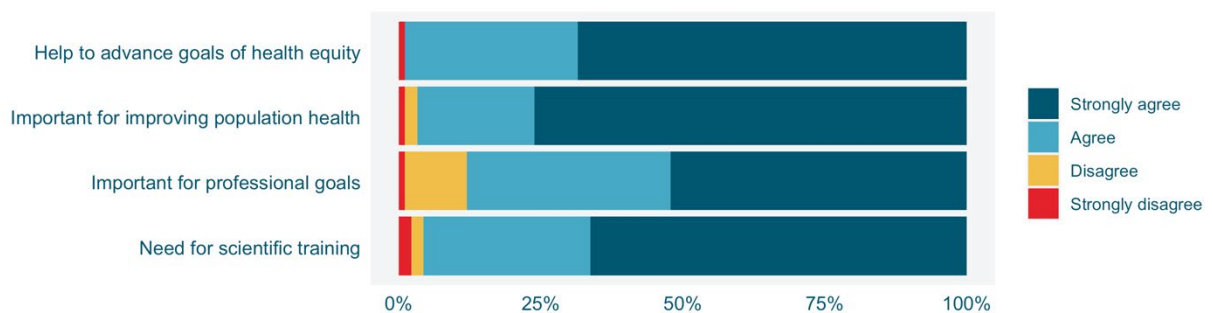
VI. Findings: Field Building in Legal Epidemiology

In addition to asking about user experiences on PSP resources specifically, both the user survey and key informant interviews included questions to solicit participant perspectives on the field of legal epidemiology more generally. The following section describes the findings on participant perspectives regarding the importance of the field and areas for growth.

Survey findings

When asked about the field of legal epidemiology in general, the overwhelming majority of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the field is important for improving population health and promoting health equity (Figure 12). As mentioned previously, respondents also agreed that there is an ongoing need for scientific training in the field.

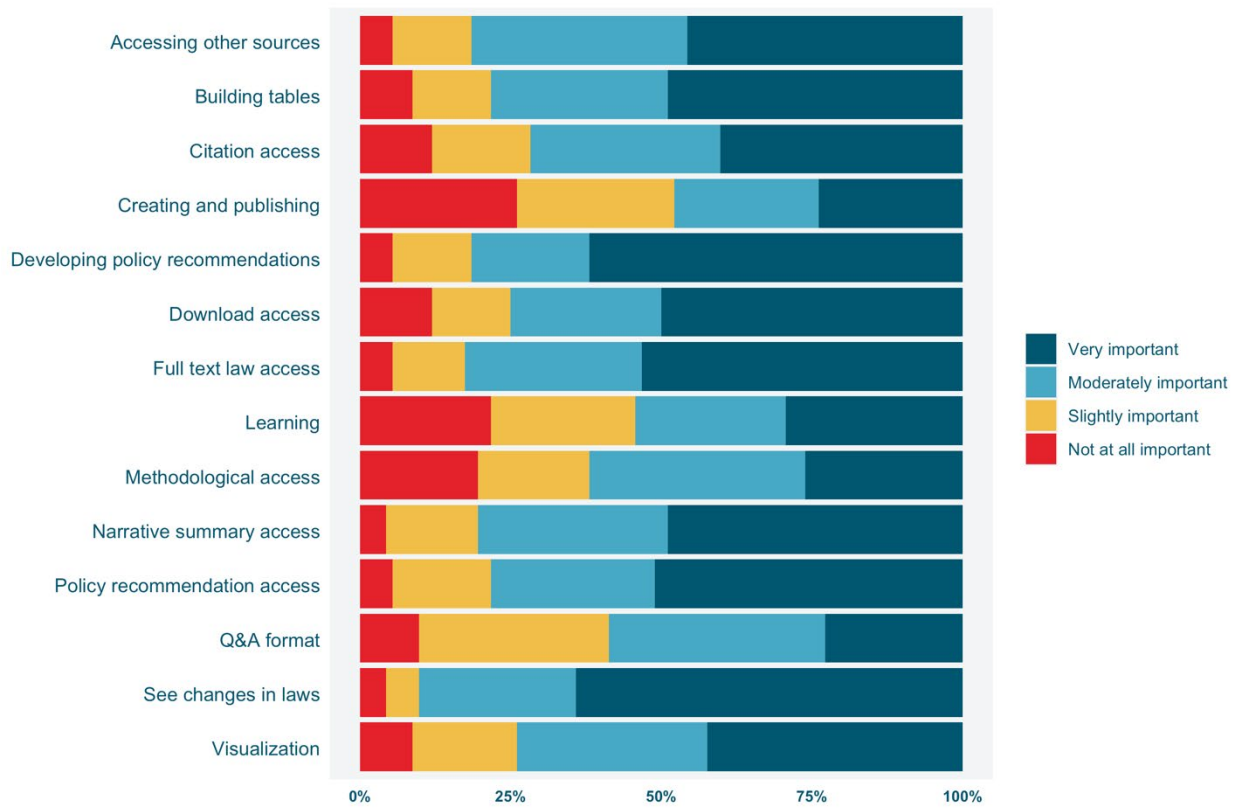
Figure 12. Respondent Views on the Field of Legal Epidemiology (N=92)*



*Note: Although all survey respondents (N=108) were asked this question, some respondents closed out of the survey before completing it.

Respondents were also asked about which types of legal epidemiology activities were most important in their professional work (Figure 13). Overall, the activity with the highest proportion of strong agreement was “seeing changes in the law” – with 64% reporting this as “very important” – suggesting that longitudinal analysis of the law is of critical importance in respondents’ work. This is consistent with findings from the KI interviews that emphasized the importance of being able to track changes in specific laws and statutes over time across jurisdictions. Other activities viewed as having high levels of importance were developing policy recommendations and accessing full texts of the law, with 62% and 53% reporting these activities as “very important,” respectively. Creating and publishing data and access to methodological information were viewed with less importance to respondents’ work than some other activities (with 24% and 26% reporting these as “very important,” respectively), suggesting that survey respondents were more involved in using legal epidemiology resources for tracking laws over time and applying knowledge gained toward policy recommendations than in data production and publication.

Figure 13. Respondent Views on the Importance of Legal Epidemiology Activities in their Work (N=92)*



*Note: Although all survey respondents (N=108) were asked this question, some respondents closed out of the survey before completing it.

Qualitative findings

Emergent themes from key informant interviews shed light on several barriers to further development of the field and expansion of its impact. These barriers included the following:

- For academic researchers in public health programs and/or epidemiology departments, there may be limited collegial support and understanding within their department(s) of public health law research and the importance of legal epidemiology, despite greater visibility of legal epidemiology within APHA and other professional organizations.
- Limited funding and the labor intensiveness of legal data creation are barriers to sustained efforts to integrate legal epidemiology throughout researchers' careers.
- Early-career researchers and/or lawyers who receive training in legal epidemiology may be motivated to continue in the field, but they have limited career opportunities that allow them to put their training into practice.
- A common perception among public health researchers that legal data production and analysis remains within the purview of lawyers continues to be a challenge for field building.

Overall, these barriers present a challenge for maintaining continuity in legal epidemiology efforts throughout individuals' careers. Establishing viable mechanisms for integrating legal epidemiology into the career trajectories of both public health scientists and legal scholars and practitioners is likely essential to further developing the reach and impact of the field.

Selected RE-AIM Themes

Adoption: The field is still new, and few people are in it. Interviews with PSP leaders highlighted the growth of legal epidemiology as a discipline, with observable indicators including, but not limited to: the expanded presence and visibility of the Public Health Law section at APHA conferences; an increase in intern applications to CPHLR from candidates with prior knowledge of policy surveillance methods; and references to LawAtlas resources in funding announcements, including program announcements published by the National Institutes of Health. It is also important to note that, through a collaborative effort between CPHLR and colleagues at the CDC, the terms “legal epidemiology” and “policy surveillance” were added as Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) descriptors at the end of 2019 by the National Library of Medicine – an important milestone for the field’s visibility. Yet, despite the expanded presence and visibility of the field, several key informants described a lack of understanding at their institutions and among colleagues in their day-to-day experiences of pursuing legal epidemiological research.

One participant described her experience using policy surveillance methods in her dissertation work. She stated that her dissertation committee was unfamiliar with the methods, so she was encouraged to refer to her work as “content analysis” – a term that may be methodologically accurate but not specific to legal epidemiology – instead of “policy surveillance,” even though she still used the methods as taught in the PSP training courses. “There are just not that many people that do this work,” she told us, although she believes the field will continue to grow, at least in part because “COVID probably helped people understand the role of public health laws.”

A healthcare provider and academic researcher highlighted the importance of networking to promote the field, while noting that colleagues in his department are not familiar with the term “legal epidemiology.” He has been “trying to think about how to write papers that reach ‘regular epidemiologists’ who don’t know about legal epidemiology.” Although he had not been to the APHA meetings where PSP leaders have presented information about the field, he mentioned that the Society for Epidemiological Research could also be a viable venue for promoting the visibility of the discipline. Another academic researcher stated, “A lot of people don’t know what legal epidemiology is. Temple does a good job explaining it at conferences, but it may be hard to grasp for those who are not familiar.”

A government official and public health practitioner highlighted the importance of strengthening the relationship between the fields of law and public health:

“People don’t know about the existence of the data and how these two seemingly different fields [law and public health] are really one and the same. We are all trying to do the same thing. Some public health measures can happen without a policy. Yet, some laws are needed to do public health protections, such as masking or

vaccinations. If we all understood this relationship, maybe we would have less conflict.” [Government official/public health practitioner]

Reach: Growing the field by developing a pipeline of researchers and expanding to new audiences.

Participants offered some recommendations for expanding the reach of the field, highlighting mechanisms for creating a pipeline of researchers in legal epidemiology and emphasizing training for graduate students. One participant suggested offering the PSP fellowship program at a junior level to graduate students.

Additional recommendations for expanding the reach of the discipline emphasized increasing visibility in the media and publishing in scholarly journals with broader scientific audiences than legal journals. This is exemplified in recent publications in *New England Journal of Medicine*, including an article by Katie Moran-McCabe and Scott Burris on eviction (<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2031947>). For example, a research attorney stated the following:

“There needs to be a media / public relations plan and a whole process to expand the use of these resources so that they do not sit online. Media may be full time or freelancers. Reporters love to cover public health topics, so they need a news release with direct contacts and encouragement. What is being done beyond posting it on the website? There are specialists at the university that promote research and position researchers as experts. Social media and Twitter presences are helpful to encourage media professionals to pick up a story.” [Research attorney]

VII. Conclusions and Recommendations

Taken as a whole, the findings from this evaluation suggest that PSP’s resources – especially the legal datasets, maps, and policy surveillance trainings – are highly valued by users for their accessibility, rigor, and quality. Both quantitative and qualitative findings indicate that PSP’s outreach efforts have been most successful at engaging academic researchers in public health, legal scholarship, and related fields, but less successful with government, public health practice, advocacy and media.

The findings also highlighted the significant growth of the field of legal epidemiology in recent years in addition to activities in the field that are most important to stakeholders, such as being able to track changes in the law and develop evidence-based policy recommendations toward improved population health. However, despite the growth of the field, stakeholders noted several challenges in pursuing projects within the legal epidemiology space, such as: insufficient funds to pursue research projects; the labor-intensiveness of legal coding projects; a lack of understanding of the field among colleagues; perceptions that public health researchers did not have the substantive expertise to code legal data; and limited opportunities to integrate legal epidemiology into one’s career trajectory.

As highlighted by PSP leaders and CPHLR staff during interviews and focus group discussions, several strategic priorities have been identified for PSP’s next phase of development. These priorities focus on both technical and infrastructural developments, including but not limited to the areas outlined below. Within each priority area, we highlight findings and recommendations that support or expand upon these developments.

- *Revamping the LawAtlas website to address several needs, such as improved accessibility and search capability.* Evaluation findings highlight a potential need for setting strategic priorities in topic development and reorganization. Content analysis of LawAtlas dataset topics and publications suggested that the topics with the greatest presence on the website are not necessarily the most popular topics among researchers. As the LawAtlas website redesign moves forward, it may be beneficial to consider refocusing the layout and search functions of the site so that the areas of greatest interest are most visible, with the potential for dynamic adaptation to user interest. Although less popular datasets may remain available, “hot topic” datasets should be made more locatable and accessible. Moreover, the redesigned website may also benefit from a clearer framing of topics in relation to PSP’s mission with regard to health equity. As these developments move forward, selected web analytics measures may be used to benchmark and track user engagement, using the 2021 findings as a baseline (e.g. the ratio of new visitors to returning visitors, the proportion of website sessions with a duration of 10 minutes or longer).
- *Expanding the functionalities of MonQcle to make it more user-friendly and flexible.* MonQcle users emphasized the need for greater flexibility in coding longitudinal changes in specific laws and greater efficiency in user experience. Some users commented that they encountered technical glitches and general slowness in using the platform, while others found it to be intuitive and easy to use. Although the user survey did not have a large enough sample of MonQcle users

to determine the causes of these divergent experiences, the findings suggest that more detailed use case testing may be needed to improve the functionality and efficiency for users.

- *Integrating machine learning/artificial intelligence into legal coding as a means of reducing the labor intensiveness of legal epidemiology research and accelerating data updates.* MonQcle users noted the labor intensiveness of the legal coding process as a limiting factor in carrying out legal coding projects, while LawAtlas users noted the need for more up-to-date data. Stakeholders also highlighted the need for more frequent updates to datasets in order to meet the needs of advocates, practitioners and lawmakers, and to increase engagement of these stakeholders in legal epidemiology. All of these findings suggest that identifying new approaches to expediting legal coding and data updates while reducing the labor intensiveness of this work would be highly beneficial. Integrating machine learning into the MonQcle platform has the potential to address these needs and therefore facilitate the growth, timeliness, and expanded reach of PSP data.
- *Increasing PSP's communications capacity to strengthen dissemination and outreach efforts, including through the addition of new communications personnel.* The evaluation findings suggested that cross-sharing of data and other policy surveillance products across partnering organizations may be valuable to expanding the reach of PSP and engaging stakeholders in more difficult-to-reach sectors. The recent addition of communications personnel to PSP's staff presents new opportunities to build on existing partnerships and explore potential cross-sharing arrangements to increase PSP's visibility and adoption.

Overall, the findings of this evaluation suggest that the priorities already identified by PSP leadership are well aligned with the needs of those individuals who use PSP resources – especially LawAtlas users and MonQcle subscribers – as well as individuals who might use them more readily with improved user-friendliness and functionality. These strategies hold promise to further expand the reach and effectiveness of PSP's resources and removing some of the technical barriers to adoption of legal epidemiology as a discipline.

Nevertheless, additional mechanisms may be needed to further support career pathway development in legal epidemiology and to continue to break down disciplinary silos that affect the application of PSP's methods and resources. Some strategies to consider for field building efforts may include:

- Continuing to promote PSP resources and legal epidemiology methods in funding opportunities, as has been done in recent NIH program announcements (for example, <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DA-22-037.html>)
- Developing a junior level PSP training/fellowship program to create a pipeline for professional development among students and early career researchers interested in legal epidemiology
- Extending networking support and technical resources for university faculty interested in course development in legal epidemiology
- Developing methodological guidelines for translating legal epidemiology findings for policy audiences

These strategies for ongoing field building in legal epidemiology may be considered as part of a long-term, comprehensive vision for PSP's growth and enhancement of the program's reach and effectiveness. Taken together, the aforementioned technical solutions, communications efforts, and scientific developments hold promise in advancing PSP's mission to promote evidence-based policy making that improves population health and advances health equity.

Evaluation of Temple University's Center for Public Health Law Research (CPHLR) Policy Surveillance Program (PSP)

Appendix 1 – User Survey

Respondent intro

The Temple University Center for Public Health Law Research's Policy Surveillance Program maintains a variety of resources and technologies that support a scientific approach to the study of laws and regulations that influence public health.

This survey asks about your use of the program's online platforms and your experience and satisfaction with them.

How would you characterize the type of organization in which you work? (Check all that apply)

- University/college/community college
- Research (foundation/private)
- Advocacy
- Legislative affairs
- Government agency
- Public health practice
- Law practice
- Media
- Health care
- Other (please describe):

How would you characterize your professional role? (Check all that apply)

- Academic Research
- Academic Teaching
- Applied Researcher
- Student
- Research Assistant/Research Analyst
- Advocate
- Policymaker
- Government Official
- Lawyer

- Legal Assistant/Legal Analyst
- Public Health Practitioner
- Reporter/Media
- Health Care Provider
- Other (please describe):

LawAtlas intro

Have you ever used LawAtlas.org website?

- Yes
- No

In the past 12 months, how often have you used LawAtlas.org website? (Question has logic applied)

- 0 times
- 1-2 times
- 3-6 times
- 7 or more times

How long have you been using LawAtlas.org website? (Question has logic applied)

- More than 2 years
- 1-2 years
- 6 months to 1 year
- Less than 6 months

PDAPS intro

Have you ever used Prescription Drug Abuse Policy System (PDAPS)?

- Yes
- No

In the past 12 months, how often have you used the PDAPS.org website? (Question has logic applied)

- 0 times
- 1-2 times
- 3-6 times
- 7 or more times

How long have you been using the PDAPS.org website? (Question has logic applied)

- More than 2 years
- 1-2 years
- 6 months to 1 year
- Less than 6 months

LawAtlas and PDAPS non-users

Do you use any other website to access public health law information? (Question has logic applied)

- Yes
- No

Which websites do you use as your main source(s) of public health law information? (Check all that apply, Question has logic applied)

- Alcohol Policy Information System (APIS)
- CDC's State Tobacco Activities Tracking and Evaluation (STATE) System
- ChangeLab Solutions
- CityHealth.org
- HeinOnline
- LexisNexis
- National Conference of State Legislatures
- Network for Public Health Law
- State Health Practices Database for Research (SHPDR)
- Public Health Law Center's U.S. E-Cigarette Regulations
- Westlaw
- Other sources (please list here):

In what ways do you use public health law information? (Check all that apply, Question has logic applied)

- Policy development
- Policy evaluation
- Education
- Tracking trends
- Advocacy
- Compliance
- Legal research

- Media
- Other (please describe):

What are your goals in gathering public health law information? (Check all that apply, Question has logic applied)

- Writing reports for policy development and/or advocacy purposes
- Preparing presentations for policy and/or advocacy audiences
- Publishing in scholarly journals
- Creating legal datasets
- Completing academic requirements (class assignments, thesis preparation, etc)
- Preparing legal briefings
- Other (please describe):

MonQcle intro

Do you use MonQcle, the legal coding software platform?

- Yes
- No

Approximately how many public health law research or policy surveillance projects have you initiated in MonQcle? (Question has logic applied)

Numeric value between 0 and 99:

How many of these projects that you have initiated in MonQcle resulted in a published dataset? (Question has logic applied)

Numeric value between 0 and 99:

LawAtlas and/or PDAPS users

In what ways do you use public health law information? (Check all that apply, Question has logic applied)

- Policy development
- Policy evaluation
- Education
- Tracking trends
- Advocacy
- Compliance

- Legal research
- Media
- Other (please describe):

Which websites do you use as your main source(s) of public health law research or policy surveillance resources, such as data sets, legal maps, and reports? (Check all that apply, Question has logic applied)

- Alcohol Policy Information System (APIS)
- CDC’s State Tobacco Activities Tracking and Evaluation (STATE) System
- ChangeLab Solutions
- CityHealth.org
- HeinOnline
- LawAtlas.org
- LexisNexis
- National Conference of State Legislatures
- Network for Public Health Law
- State Health Practices Database for Research (SHPDR)
- Prescription Drug Abuse Policy System (PDAPS)
- Public Health Law Center’s U.S. E-Cigarette Regulations
- Westlaw
- Other sources (please list here):

LawAtlas users

Thinking about your experience with LawAtlas.org, please indicate how useful the following resources have been for your work. (Question has logic applied)

	Very useful	Somewhat useful	Slightly useful	Not at all useful	Have not used/ not applicable
Maps and tables	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessing the text of the law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessing legal citations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Codebooks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research protocols	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Training modules and webinars	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thinking about your experience with LawAtlas.org, please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Question has logic applied)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ not applicable
The information on LawAtlas is accurate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The information on LawAtlas is clear	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The information on LawAtlas is credible	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It takes a few clicks/steps to accomplish what I need to on LawAtlas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I plan to continue using LawAtlas in my work going forward	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall, I am satisfied with the LawAtlas website	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PDAPS users

Thinking about your experience with PDAPS.org, please indicate how useful the following resources have been for your work. (Question has logic applied)

	Very useful	Somewhat useful	Slightly useful	Not at all useful	Have not used/ not applicable
Maps and tables	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessing the text of the law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessing legal citations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Codebooks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research protocols	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thinking about your experience with PDAPS.org, please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Question has logic applied)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ not applicable
The information on PDAPS is accurate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The information on PDAPS is clear	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The information on PDAPS is credible	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It takes a few clicks/steps to accomplish what I need to on PDAPS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I plan to continue using PDAPS in my work going forward	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall, I am satisfied with the PDAPS website	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

MonQcle users

Thinking about your use of MonQcle for creating legal datasets, please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Question has logic applied)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ not applicable
I find the MonQcle platform easy to navigate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am able to achieve my goals in using MonQcle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The MonQcle platform makes it efficient to create a legal dataset	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I understand how to use the platform to achieve my goals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MonQcle makes it easy to track my progress on a data creating project	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MonQcle makes it easy to collaborate with teammates on a project	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

MonQcle makes it easy to publish a new legal dataset	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is easy to learn how to use the platform	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The platform is free of technical glitches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I plan to continue using MonQcle in my work going forward	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I plan on updating my MonQcle project(s) as new information becomes available	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall, I am satisfied with the MonQcle platform	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What do you particularly like about the MonQcle platform? (Question has logic applied)

Free text entry box:

What additional suggestions or feedback do you have about how the MonQcle platform can be improved to better serve the public health law community? (Question has logic applied)

Free text entry box:

Overall suggestions for 'users'

Do you have any suggestions for how the Policy Surveillance Program's offerings can be improved, such as data sources, data translation and synthesis, and training? (Question has logic applied)

Free text entry box:

Everyone

The field of legal epidemiology – or public health law research – is the scientific study of the relation of law and legal practices to population health. It includes a variety of research evaluation and dissemination activities.

Please indicate the degree to which the following legal epidemiology activities are important to your work.

	Very important	Moderately important	Slightly important	Not at all important
Accessing downloadable datasets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessing full texts of laws and statutes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Building tables to compare laws across jurisdictions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visualizing and comparing laws in map form	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessing legal information in Q&A format	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessing legal citations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seeing changes in laws over time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessing narrative summaries of a particular law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Learning how to create legal datasets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessing methodological documentation about legal datasets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creating and publishing legal datasets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessing policy recommendations based on the data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Developing new policy recommendations based on the data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessing other credible sources of comparative legal information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements about the field of legal epidemiology

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
This field is important to my professional goals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
This field is important for improving population health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

This field can help to advance to goals of achieving health equity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is a need for scientific training in this field	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Demographic questions

Lastly, the following demographic questions are meant to help us understand how well we have reached users from a variety of groups with our health policy surveillance program resources.

What category below includes your age?

- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+
- Decline to answer

What is your gender identity?

- Male
- Female
- Transgender male / trans man
- Transgender female/ trans woman
- Non-binary
- Other gender category (please specify):
- Decline to answer

Please indicate how you identify:

- American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous
- Asian or Asian American
- Black or African American
- Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Latin American
- Middle Eastern
- Multiracial or multiethnic
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- White

- Some other race (please specify):
- Decline to answer

Final section

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!

Email address: Please provide the email address where you received the invitation to this survey. This will ensure that you do not receive additional requests to complete this survey. Neither your name nor email address will be linked to your survey responses in any data analysis or reporting.

Free text entry box:

If you have any other feedback on the LawAtlas.org website, the PDAPS.org website, or the MonQcle platform, or any other resources offered by the Policy Surveillance Program, please describe here (Otherwise, click submit button at the bottom of the page)

Free text entry box: