



# **The Evaluators' Network**

Surveillance & Evaluation (S&E) Webinar: Using Policy Surveillance Methods for K-12 Tobacco-free School Policies: Lessons from the Geographic Surveillance Learning Collaborative

November 30, 2021  
3:00-4:00pm

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Webinar ID 886 4000 2712



# *Using Policy Surveillance Methods for K-12 Tobacco- free School Policies*

*Lessons from the Geographic  
Surveillance Learning Collaborative*



Geographic Health  
Equity Alliance  
A CADCA Initiative



[cadca.org](http://cadca.org)



# Geographic Health Equity Alliance

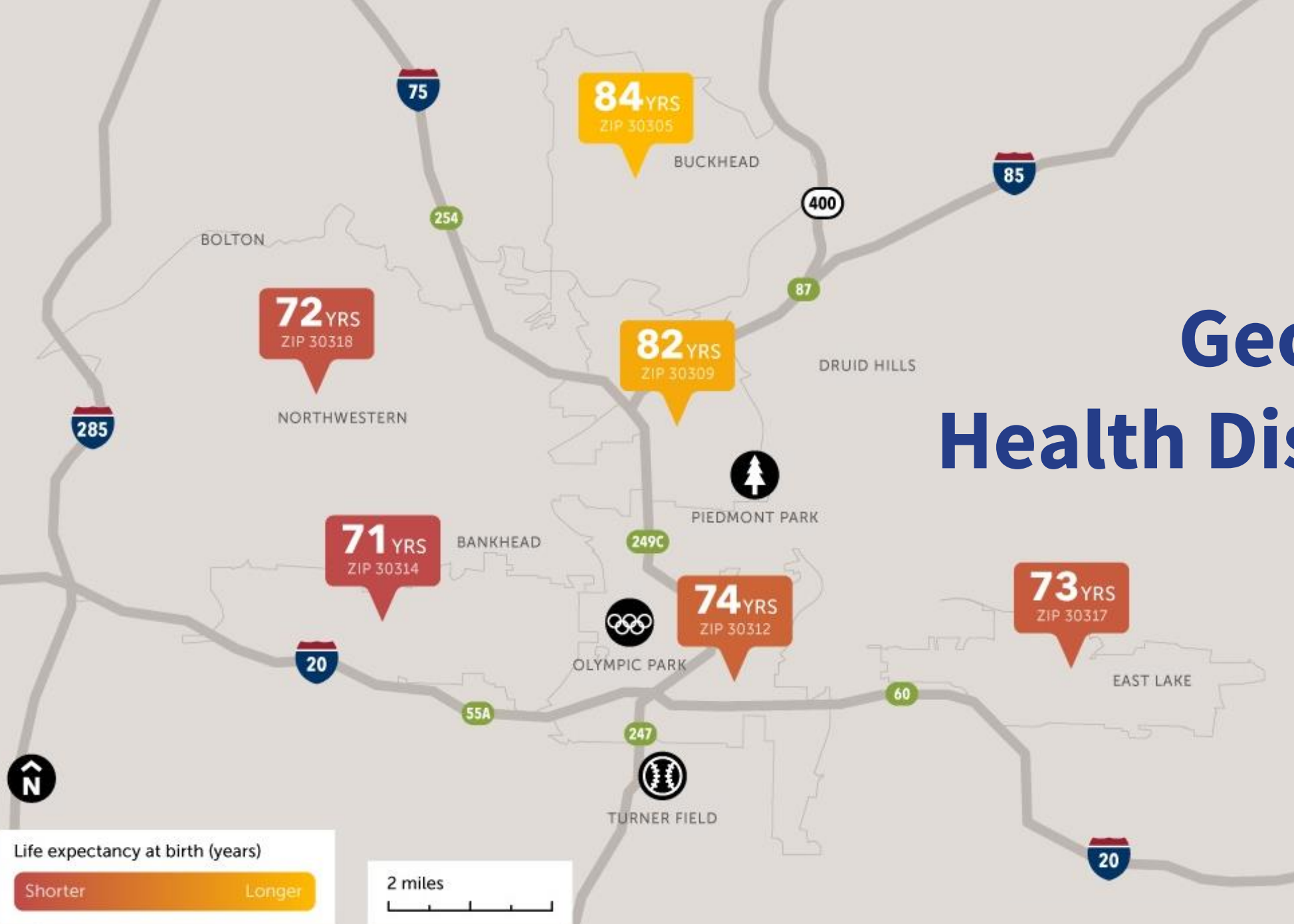
A  CADCA Initiative

**Andrew C Romero, M.Ed**

Director, Geographic Health Equity Alliance  
CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America)

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# Geographic Health Disparities



# Uneven Access to Smoke-Free Laws and Policies and Its Effect on Health Equity in the United States: 2000–2019

Tobacco control measures have played an important role in the reduction of the cigarette smoking prevalence among US adults.

However, although overall smoking prevalence has declined, it remains high among many subpopulations that are disproportionately burdened by tobacco use, resulting in tobacco-related health disparities. Slow diffusion of smoke-free laws to rural regions, particularly in the South and Southeast, and uneven

*Amy Y. Hafez, PhD, Mariaelena Gonzalez, PhD, Margarete C. Kulik, PhD, Maya Vijayaraghavan, MD, and Stanton A. Glantz, PhD*

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**T**he US adult cigarette smoking prevalence declined from 20.9% to 14.0% between 2005 and 2017.<sup>1</sup> Although the overall prevalence fell across all racial and ethnic groups,<sup>2</sup> differences in prevalence remained among US subpopulations, resulting in continuing tobacco-related health disparities. Subpopulations disproportionately burdened by tobacco use include low-income

residences.<sup>9</sup> Although tobacco control interventions are benefiting the overall population, inequity in access to smoke-free laws and policies has contributed to perpetuating tobacco-related health disparities.

Here we examine the role comprehensive smoke-free laws have played in reducing smoking prevalence and how coverage by

of other products such as e-cigarettes and inhaled cannabis.) Promising practices and policies to reduce tobacco-related health disparities would specifically target at-risk subgroups, such as racial/ethnic and low socioeconomic subpopulations that have driven smoking-related disparities,<sup>10</sup> while continuing to strengthen the policy framework in place that has been beneficial with respect to

# Geographic Surveillance Learning Collaborative

## Years 1 and 2

**Elizabeth Gerndt, MPH**

Project Director

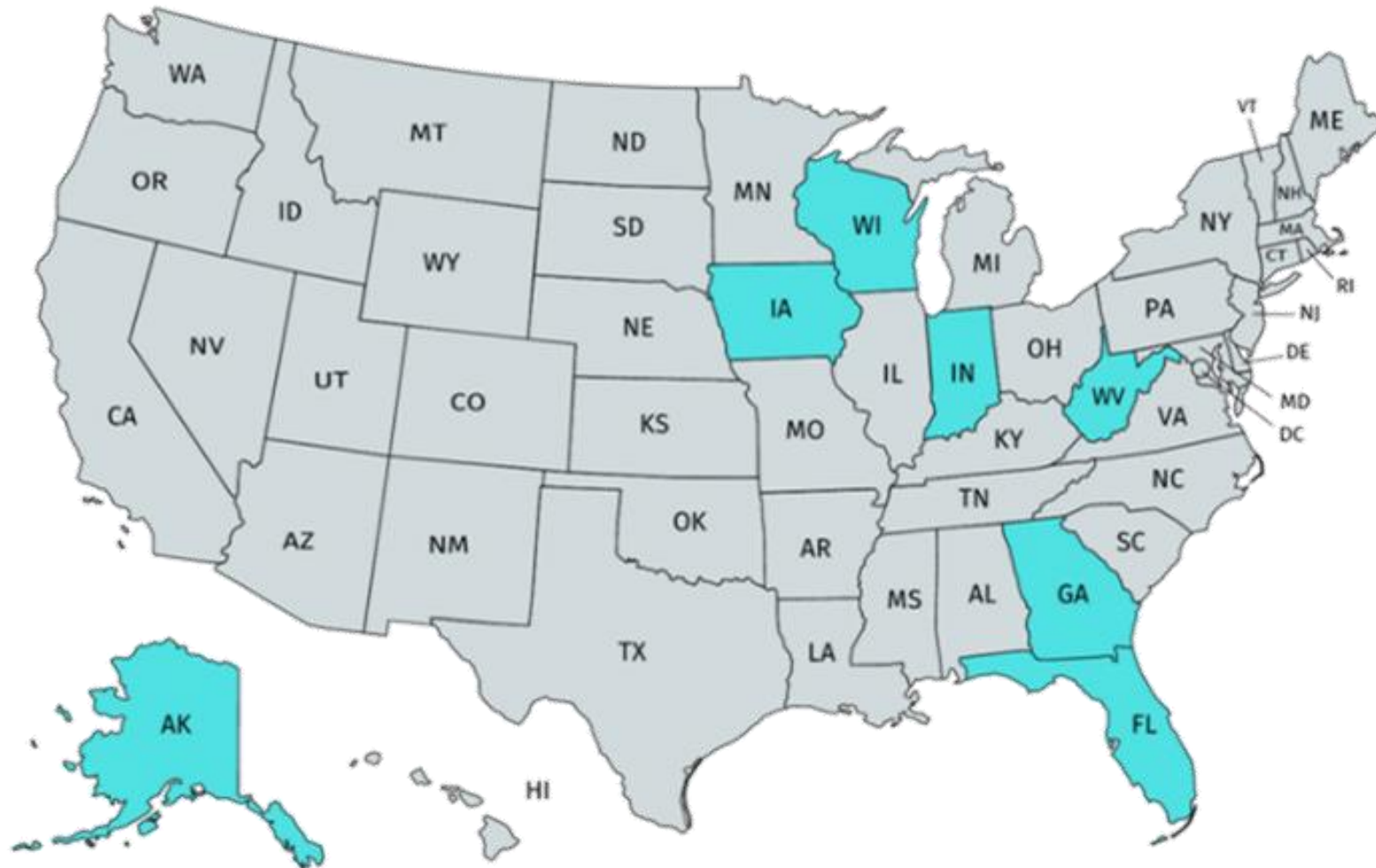
Counter Tools

[elizabeth@countertools.org](mailto:elizabeth@countertools.org)



# Geographic Surveillance Learning Collaborative

## Year 1



# Geographic Surveillance Learning Collaborative

## Year 2

### Participating States



### Facilitators & Training/TA Providers



**Geographic Health  
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ADVANCING PLACE-BASED  
PUBLIC HEALTH



**TEMPLE**  
UNIVERSITY

**Center for Public Health  
Law Research**





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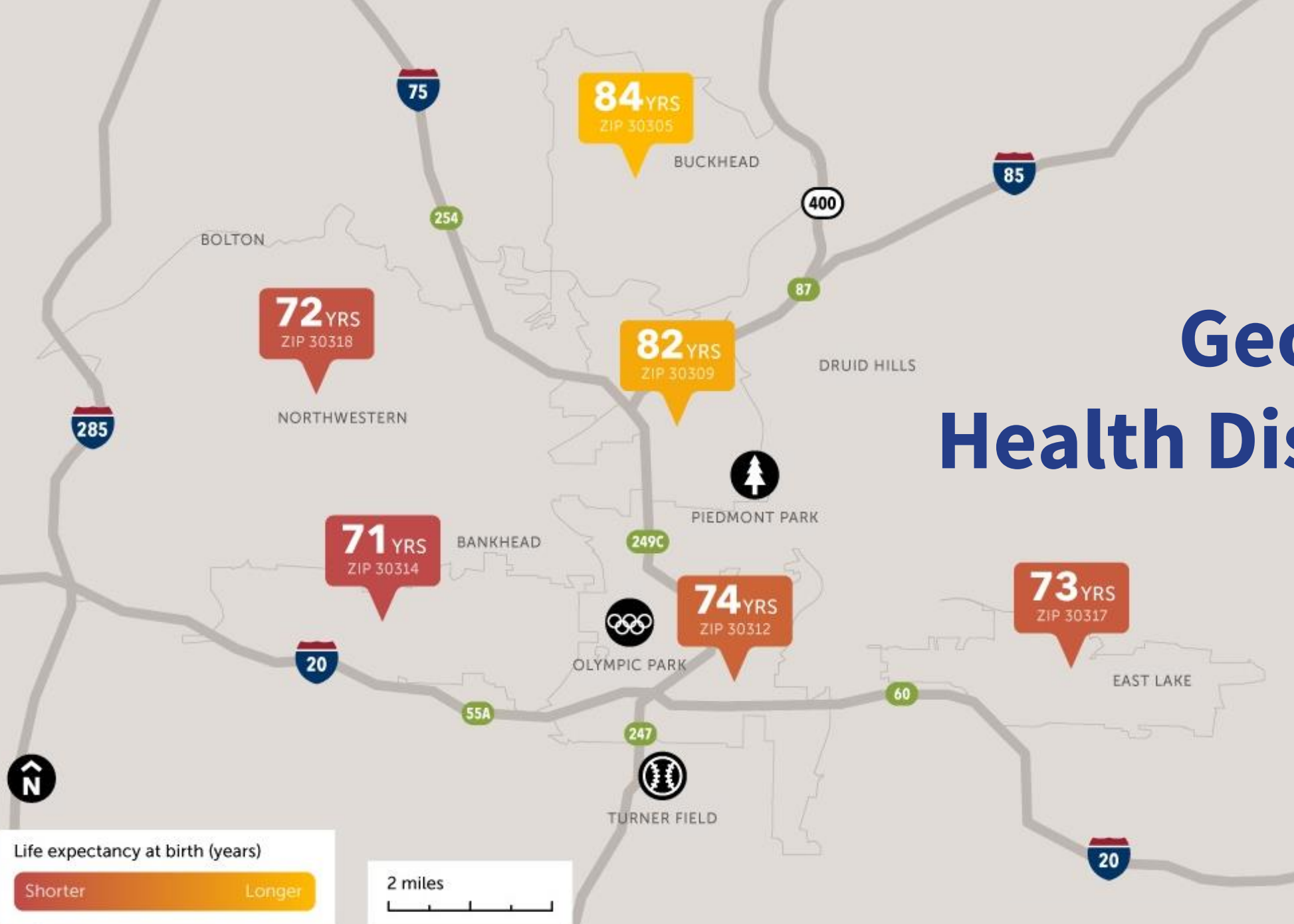
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# Geographic Health Disparities



Life expectancy at birth (years)

Shorter Longer

2 miles

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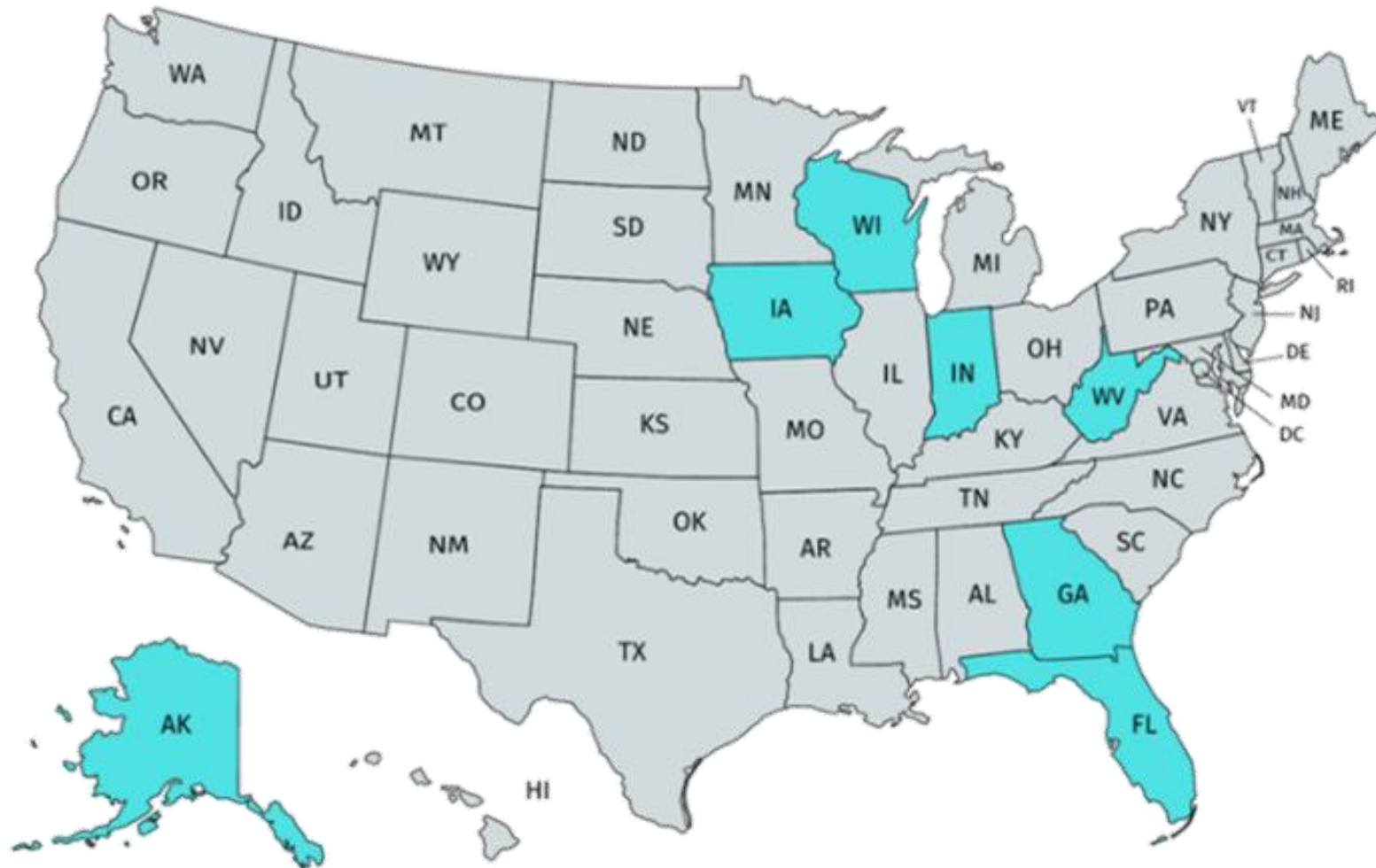
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# Geographic Surveillance Learning Collaborative

## Year 1





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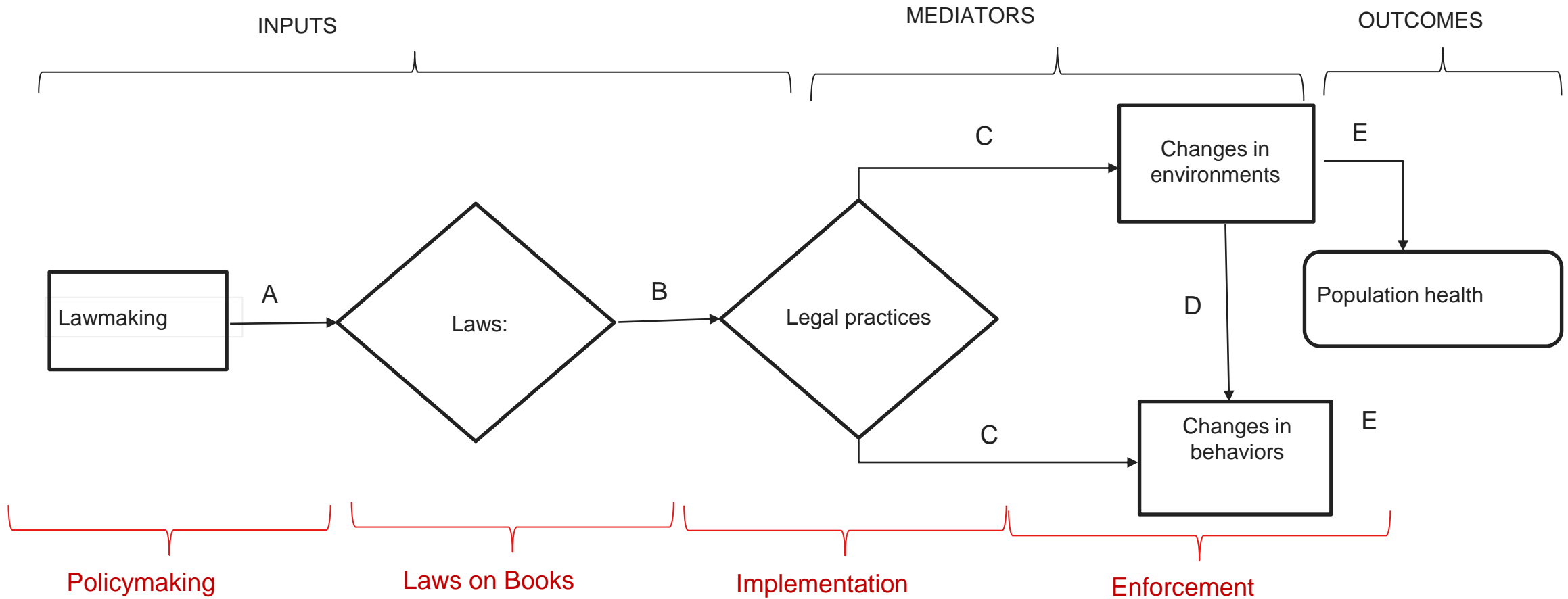
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# Policy Surveillance

**Joshua Waimberg, JD, MBA**  
Legal Training Manager

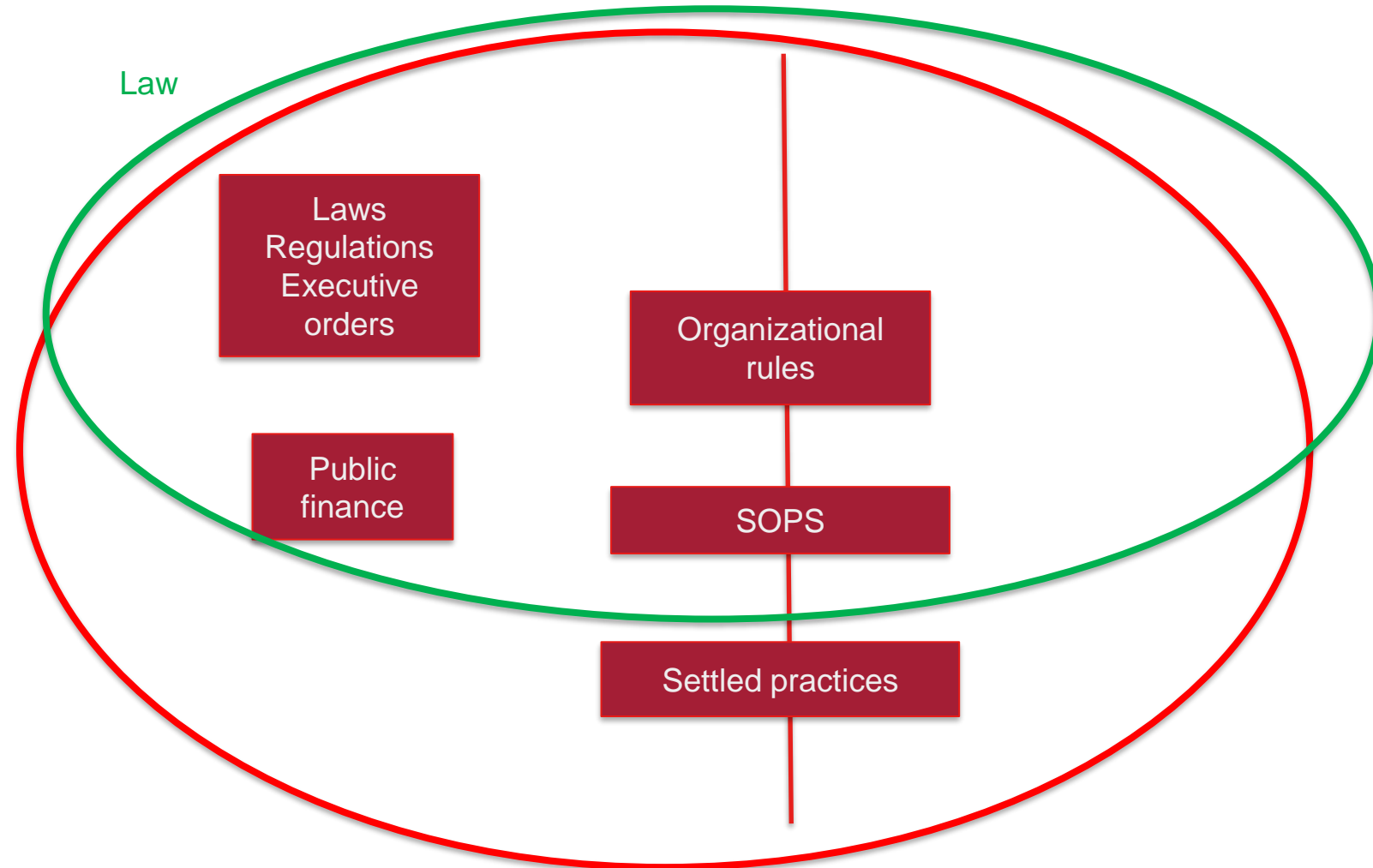
# Logic Model



Legal Activities and Processes

Logic Model of Public Health Law Research (Burriss et.al. 2010)

# What Are We Measuring?



A process for assessing and capturing important features and variation in laws and policies, across time and space.

## **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.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH LAW PRACTICE**

The application of professional legal skills in the development of health policy and the practice of public health.

# Legal Mapping Models

	Mapping Model	Type of Data Produced	Time and Place Studied	Essential Team Resources
Legal Epidemiology	Policy surveillance	Produces robust data using a rigorous scientific process	Tracks laws over time and across multiple jurisdictions	Team of at least three is required
	Legal assessments	Produces robust data using a rigorous scientific process	Maps laws at one specific point in time, across multiple jurisdictions	Team of at least three is required
Public Health Law Practice	Legal scan	Quick scan of a topic or domain	Maps laws across multiple jurisdictions at one specific point in time	Can be completed by one person
	Legal profile	Quick scan of a domain, or multiple domains	Maps laws in one specific jurisdiction at one specific point in time	Can be completed by one person



# 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.



Policy  
Surveillance

# What is Policy Surveillance?

- The systematic collection, analysis, and dissemination of laws and policies across jurisdictions or institutions, and over time.

# Why Policy Surveillance Matters



**Create reliable  
data for  
evaluation**



**Create  
accessible,  
non-partisan  
information**



**Track change  
over time &  
measure  
progress**



**Diffuse  
innovative  
policy ideas**



**Build workforce  
capacity**

# Who Uses Policy Surveillance?



**Policymakers** see what element of laws have the most movement in other states and can learn to track their own laws.



**Advocacy groups** track progress of campaigns and efforts to change laws and determine where to focus efforts and resources.



**Social scientists** access scientifically sound data that can be used to evaluate the health influences of the laws.



**Government agencies** use this as a metric for the success of larger programs.

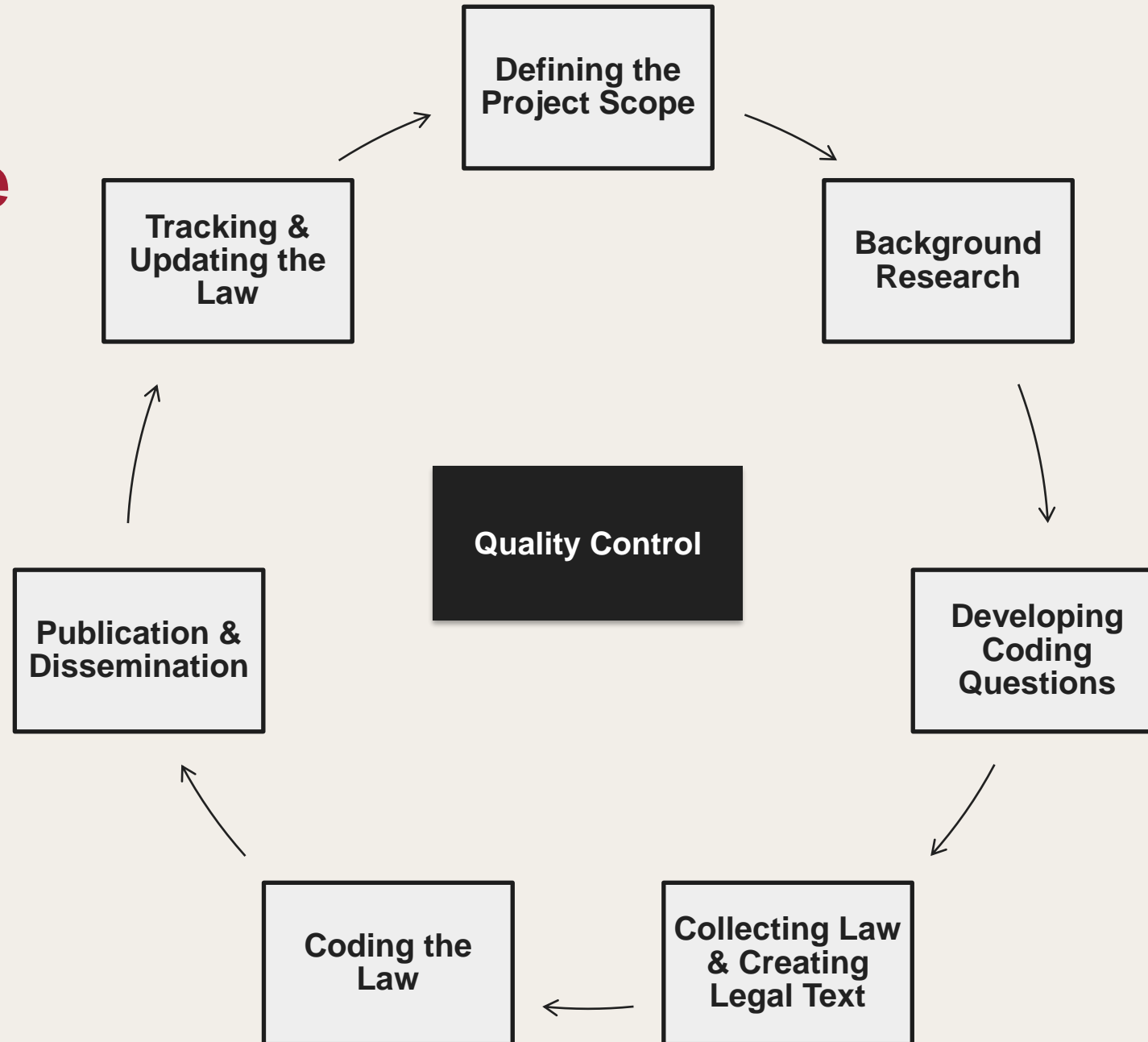


**The public** have easier access to key laws in the community.



**Health professionals** measure progress and plan initiatives.

# The Policy Surveillance Process



# Selecting a Project Topic

Four primary criteria to consider when selecting a topic for a policy surveillance project:

- 1. Do the laws vary by jurisdiction?**
- 2. Are the laws measurable, in written form?**
- 3. Has the topic not already been extensively studied?**
- 4. Does the topic affect public health?**



# Coding Example

## QUESTION

What behaviors are restricted while driving?

- A. Text messaging
- B. Calling
- C. Watching TV
- D. Eating a sandwich



## LEGAL TEXT

**Alaska Stat. § 28.35.161 Use of electronic devices while driving; unlawful installation of television, monitor, or similar device**

(a) **A person commits the crime of driving while texting**, while communicating on a computer, or while a screen device is operating **if the person is driving a motor vehicle, and** .....

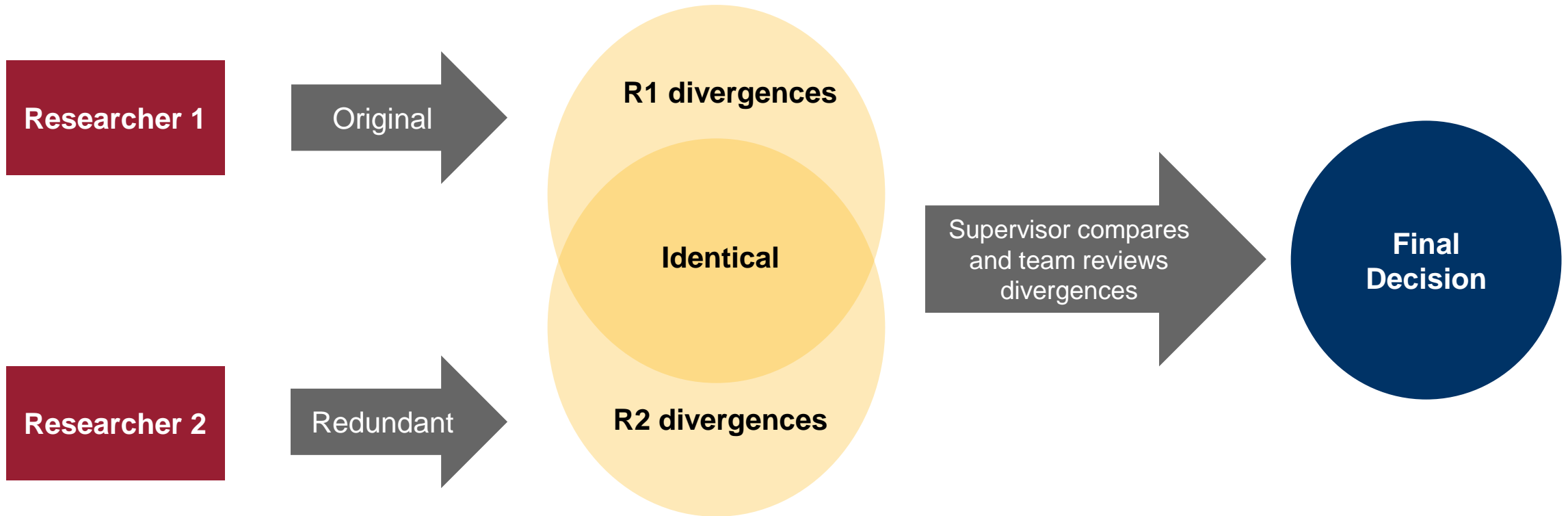
(2) **the person is reading or typing a text message** or other nonvoice message or communication **on a cellular telephone**, personal data assistant, computer, or any other similar means capable of providing a visual display that is in view of the driver in a normal driving position while the vehicle is in motion and while the person is driving



## RESPONSE

A. Text messaging

# Quality Control Through Redundancy



# MonQcle Coding Software

- Designed to allow researchers to identify code, and analyze legal policies and then visualize, share, and update legal research findings.

**MonQcle**  
by the Center for Public Health Law Research



**Florida  
HEALTH**

# Integrating Policy Surveillance into the work of Florida's tobacco control program

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Presented by:  
Robert Ostbye, MPH  
Statewide Policy Coordinator  
Bureau of Tobacco Free Florida

# Previous K-12 Policy Surveillance Efforts

# 2015-2019: Before 2019 Assessment

# Comprehensive Policy Components

2

≤ 5

4

6 - 10

14

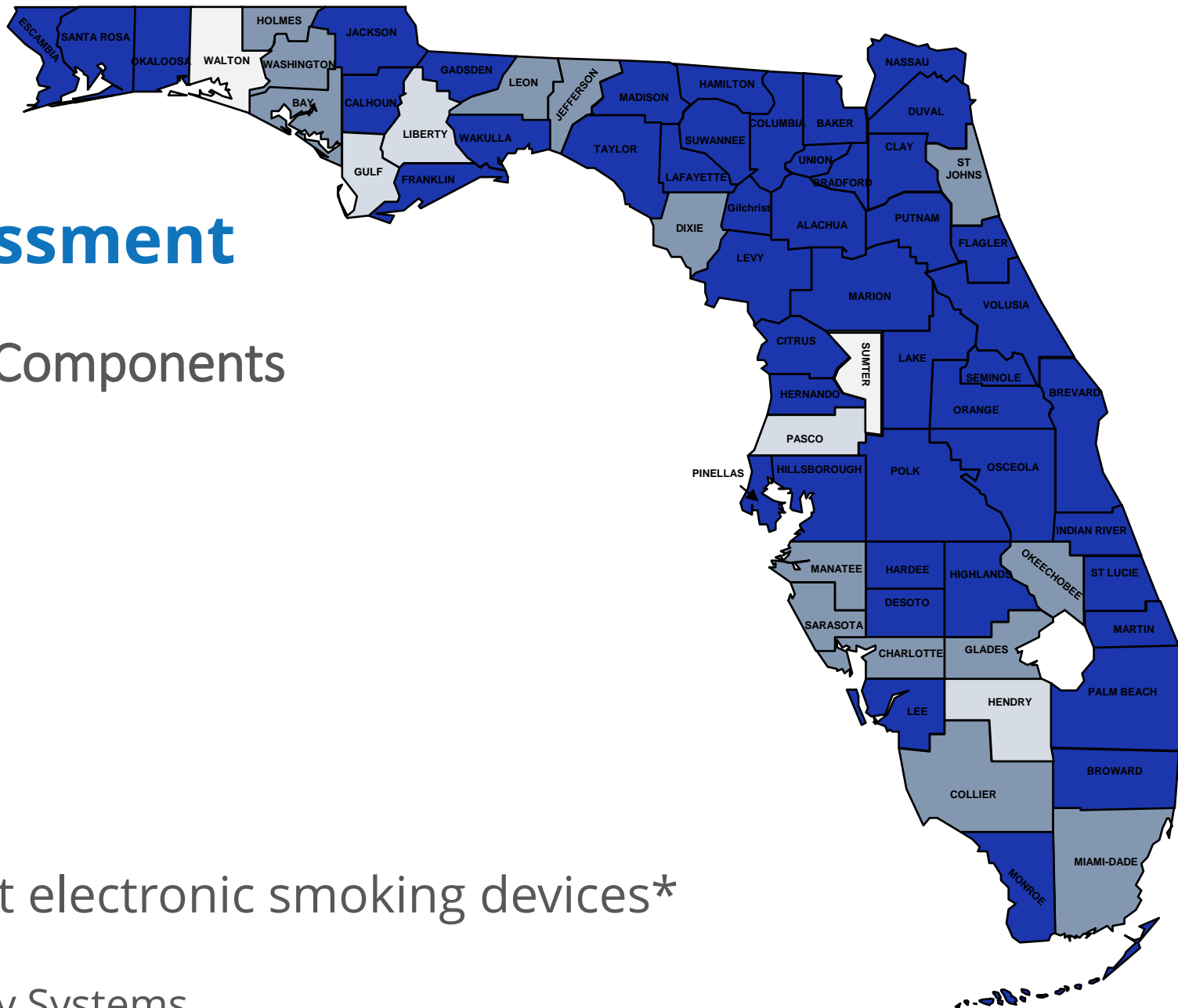
11 - 12

47

13

0

Does not prohibit electronic smoking devices\*



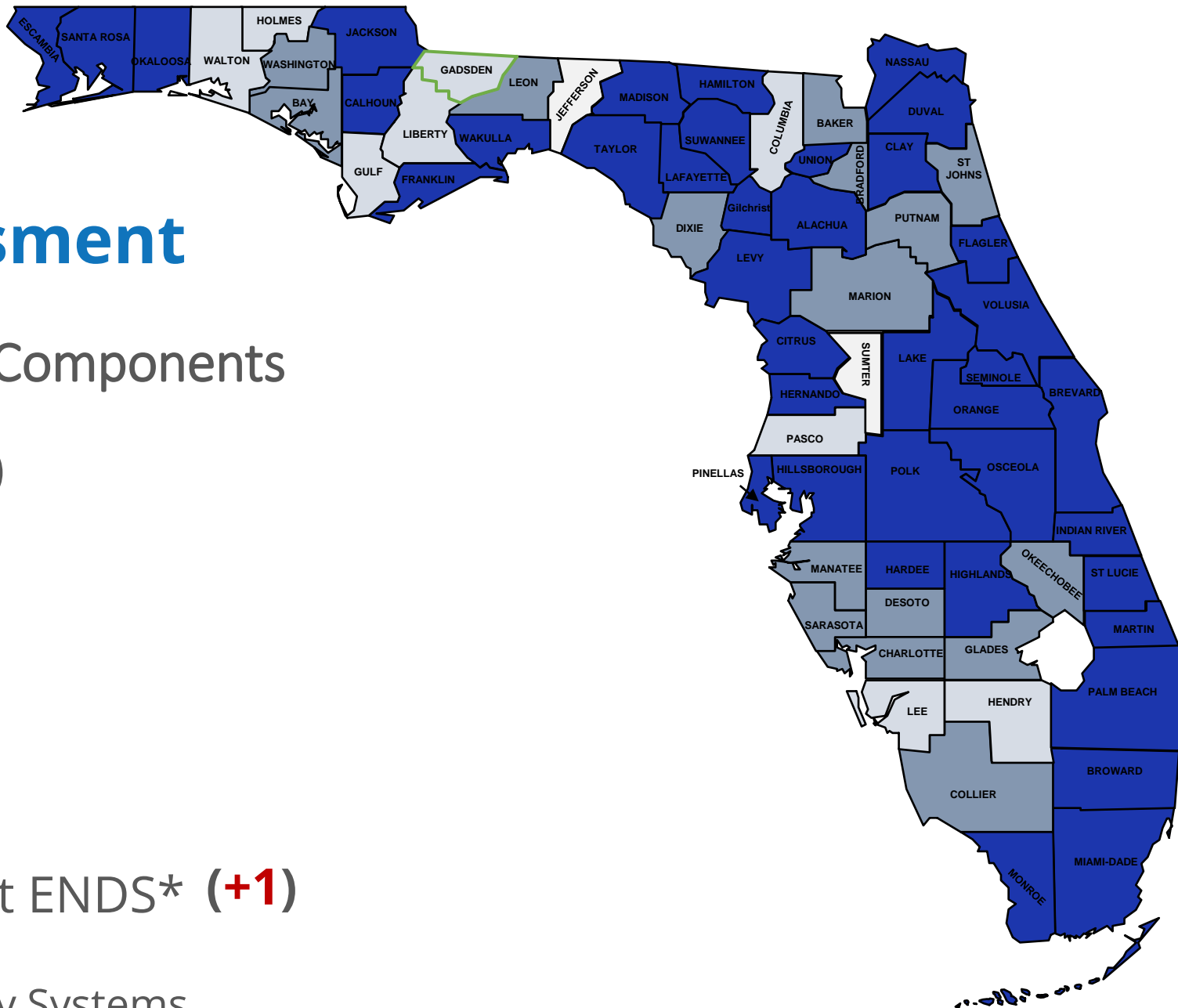
\*Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems

# 2020: After 2019 Assessment

## # Comprehensive Policy Components

2	≤ 5 (No Change)
9	6 - 10 (+5)
16	11 - 12 (+2)
40	13 (-7)
1	Does <u>not</u> prohibit ENDS* (+1)

\*Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems

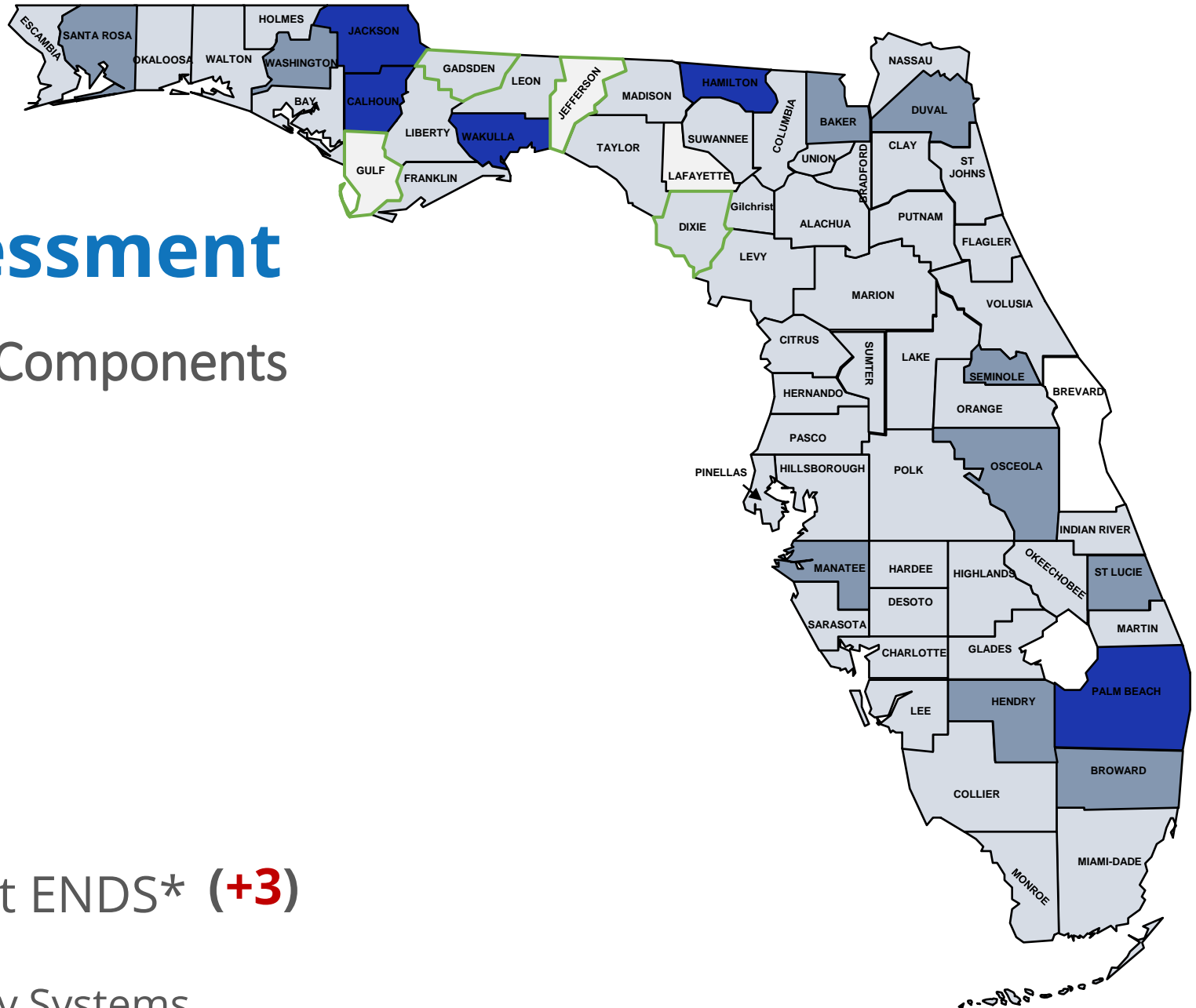


# 2021: After 2020 Assessment

# Comprehensive Policy Components

3	≤ 5 (+1)
48	6 - 10 (+39)
10	11 - 12 (-6)
5	13 (-35)
4	Does <u>not</u> prohibit ENDS* (+3)

\*Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems





# Integrating methods of Policy Surveillance to the work of community-based providers

- Required work plan activity for community providers:
  - Activity Type: Assess current tobacco policies
- Adapted policy surveillance process to fit STCP structure
  - Preliminary research and question development conducted by the collaborative
  - Researcher 1: All providers (community providers in 67 counties)
  - Researcher 2: NTCP program staff (and interns)
  - Supervisor: Robert (me)
- Providers will collect and code policy using guidance document/instructions

# Benefits of Participating in Geo Collab

- More consistent results
- More reliable policy data
- Replicable process can be applied to future surveillance efforts
  - Documentation: Research protocol, search strategy, code book, etc.
  - Methods “belong” to Legal Epidemiology domain of public health
  - Methods applicable to all tobacco-control policy surveillance
- Increased STCP competency in Legal Epidemiology and Policy Surveillance

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# Contact List

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