

Background and Rationale

Vaccination issues reported by media include:

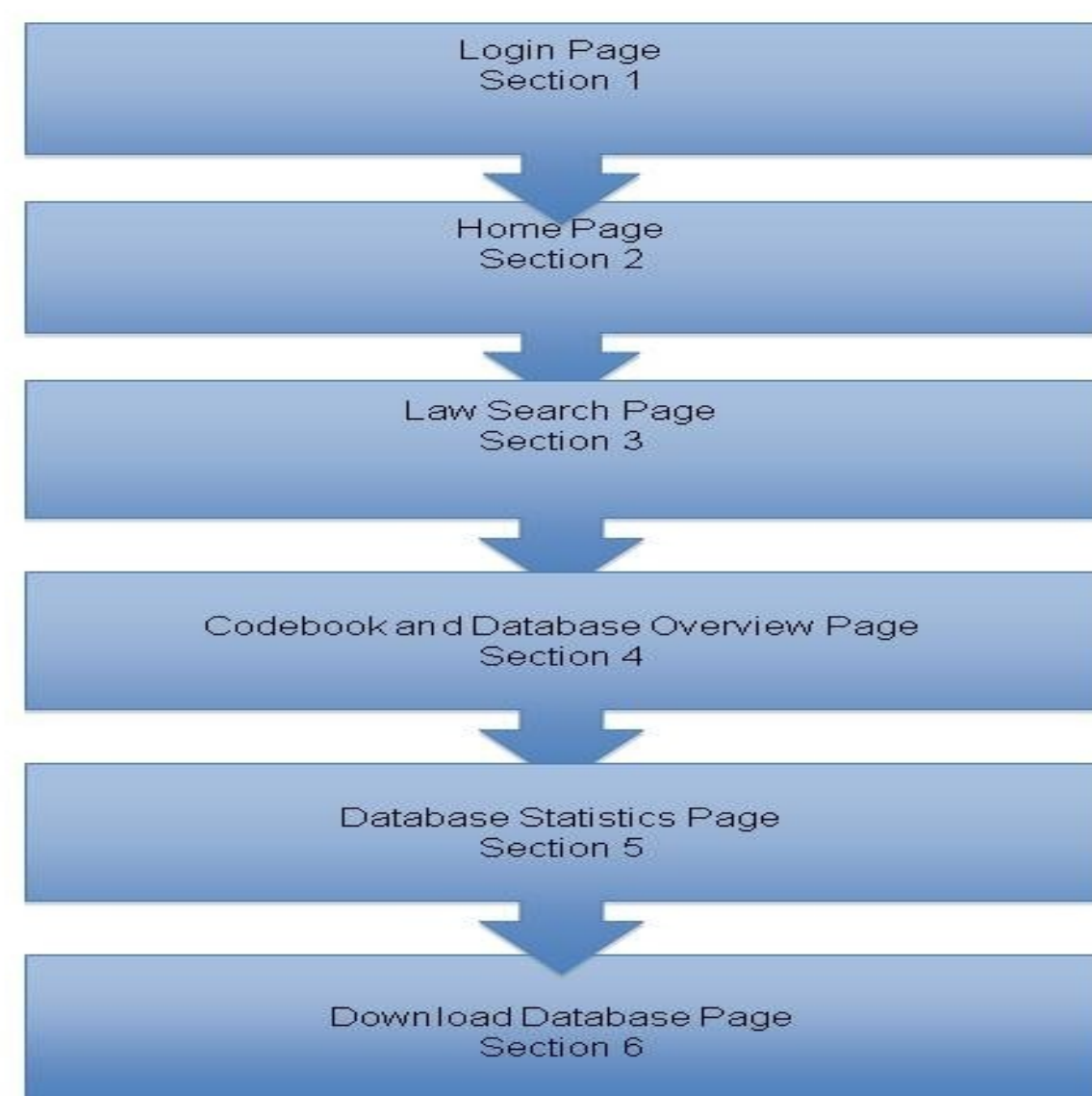
- Public questioning of vaccine effectiveness and safety and refusal to take recommended and required vaccines;
- Tension between pediatricians and parents;
- VICP awards exceeding \$2 billion;
- Outbreaks of vaccine-targeted disease;
- Waning vaccine immunity and failures;
- Rapid growth in vaccine sales and development of new products/technologies;
- Expanding CDC vaccine recommendations;
- Expanding state vaccination mandates linked to childcare and public school admission;
- Current legislative efforts in numerous states related to access to non-medical vaccine exemptions.

However, no comprehensive, validated and publicly available repository of vaccination-related law exists hindering public health and legal scholar efforts to evaluate variations in state non-medical exemption and requirement laws and differences in vaccine coverage and communicable disease rates. This project addresses the gap in legal database access.

Codebook

- Provides general project background information including the methods used to code approximately 2,000 current US vaccination statutes and regulations from 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- PostgreSQL database platform and ASP.Net programming were used.
- Reflecting statutes and regulation language, the terms “immunization” and “vaccination” are used interchangeably throughout the document.

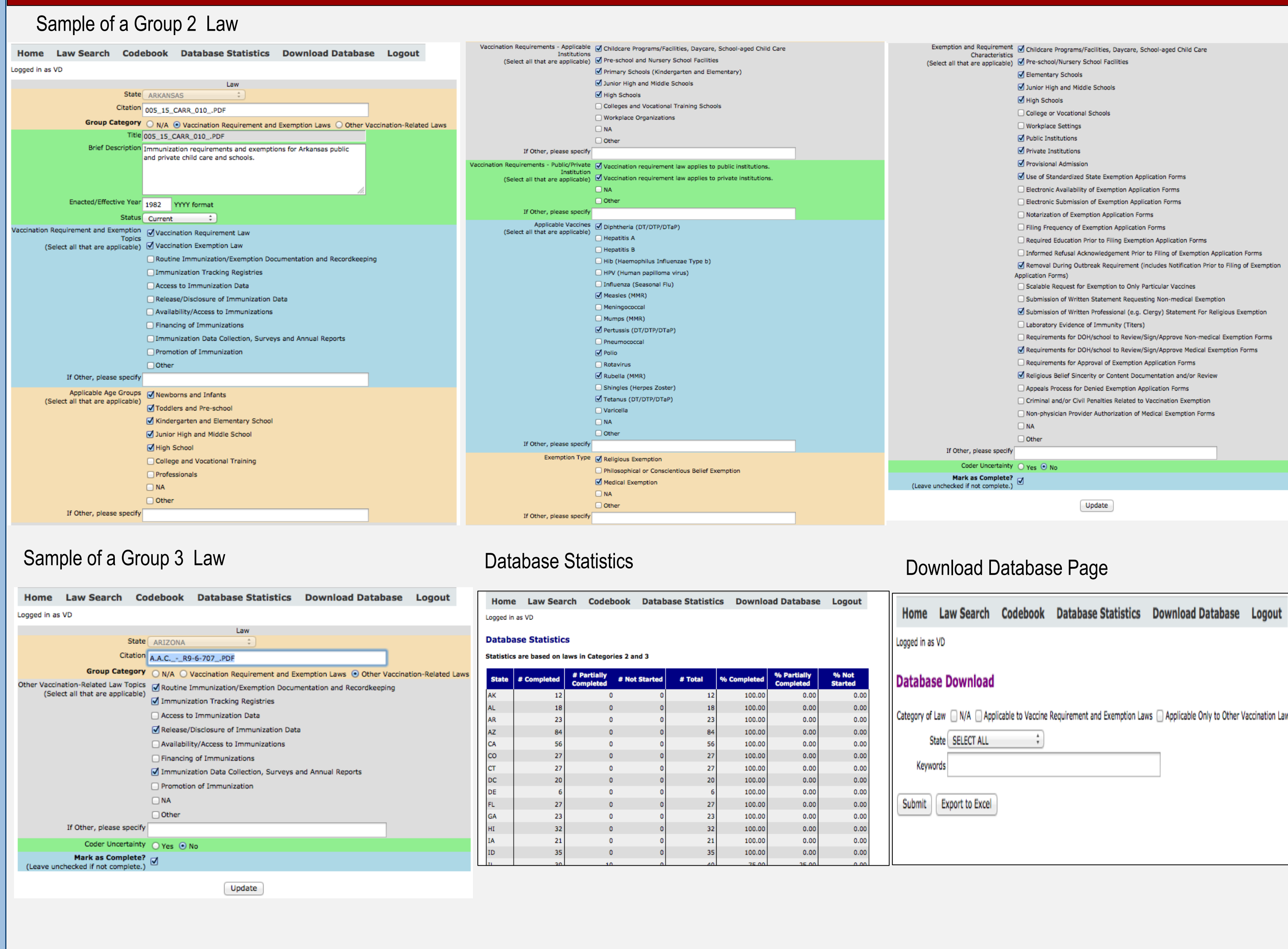
Database and Website Overview



Legal Search Strategy

- To determine which search terms would best yield a comprehensive set of laws related to vaccination requirements and exemptions, a test state was selected (Alaska) and 13 combinations of terms were evaluated. Two searches using the terms “hepatitis” and “pertussis” were undertaken to determine whether all vaccine-specific requirements were retrieved. LexisNexis Academic was used to search statutory and administrative laws (not constitutional provisions).
- After removing four search terms (the two disease terms and all combinations with “immun!” which captured hundreds of non-relevant laws related to legal immunity), the remaining search strategies yielded 77 unique and potentially applicable laws.
- To determine which search terms most accurately captured all relevant laws, the 77 laws were reviewed and assigned to: Group 1 - not applicable to vaccination; Group 2 - applicable to vaccination and applicable to this project; or Group 3 - applicable to vaccination but not to this project.
 - Group 1 contained 39 laws for animal vaccination, use of vaccination records to establish age, state sovereign immunity, definition of hepatitis, universal precaution requirements, and disease reporting.
 - Group 3 contained laws related to: immunization registries, Medicaid payment policy, vaccination recordkeeping, vaccine promotion, financing, administration regulations, and disclosure of data.
- A final search strategy was selected that captures all relevant laws and the fewest non-relevant laws and were tested for two additional states (Mississippi and Vermont). Based on previously conducted analysis, the search strategy identified all relevant laws for the three states evaluated.
- All three groups of laws are included in the database in the following manner: Group 1 – citation listed; Group 2 – citation, topic and full content coding; and Group 3 – citation and topic coding.

Database Screenshots



Sample of a Group 2 Law

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State: ARIZONA Law: A.R.S. § 13-907

Citation: A.R.S. § 13-907

Group Category: ☒ N/A ☐ Vaccination Requirement and Exemption Laws ☐ Other Vaccination-Related Laws

Brief Description: Immunization requirements and exemptions for Arizona public and private child care and schools.

Enacted/Effective Year: 1982 YYYY format

Status: Current

Vaccination Requirement and Exemption Topics (Select all that are applicable):

- ☐ Routine Immunization/Exemption Documentation and Recordkeeping
- ☐ Immunization Tracking Registries
- ☐ Access to Immunization Data
- ☐ Release/Disclosure of Immunization Data
- ☐ Availability/Access to Immunizations
- ☐ Financing of Immunizations
- ☐ Immunization Data Collection, Surveys and Annual Reports
- ☐ Promotion of Immunization
- ☐ Other

If Other, please specify:

Applicable Age Groups (Select all that are applicable):

- ☒ Newborns and Infants
- ☒ Toddlers and Pre-school
- ☒ Kindergarten and Elementary School
- ☒ Junior High and Middle School
- ☒ High School
- ☐ College and Vocational Training
- ☐ Postsecondary
- ☐ NA
- ☐ Other

If Other, please specify:

Applicable Vaccines (Select all that are applicable):

- ☒ Diphtheria (DT/DTaP)
- ☒ Hepatitis A
- ☒ Hepatitis B
- ☒ Hib (Haemophilus Influenzae Type b)
- ☒ HPV (Human papilloma virus)
- ☒ Tetanus (Tetanus Toxoid)
- ☒ Measles (MM)
- ☒ Pertussis (MM)
- ☒ Polio (IPV)
- ☒ Rubella (MM)
- ☒ Tetanus (T/TT)
- ☒ Varicella (MM)
- ☒ Other

If Other, please specify:

Exemption Type:

- ☒ Religious Exemption
- ☒ Philosophical or Conscientious Belief Exemption
- ☒ Medical Exemption
- ☐ NA
- ☐ Other

If Other, please specify:

Sample of a Group 3 Law

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State: ARIZONA Law: A.R.S. § 13-907

Citation: A.R.S. § 13-907

Group Category: ☒ N/A ☐ Vaccination Requirement and Exemption Laws ☐ Other Vaccination-Related Laws

Brief Description: Immunization requirements and exemptions for Arizona public and private child care and schools.

Enacted/Effective Year: 1982 YYYY format

Status: Current

Vaccination Requirement and Exemption Topics (Select all that are applicable):

- ☐ Routine Immunization/Exemption Documentation and Recordkeeping
- ☐ Immunization Tracking Registries
- ☐ Access to Immunization Data
- ☐ Release/Disclosure of Immunization Data
- ☐ Availability/Access to Immunizations
- ☐ Financing of Immunizations
- ☐ Immunization Data Collection, Surveys and Annual Reports
- ☐ Promotion of Immunization
- ☐ Other

If Other, please specify:

Applicable Age Groups (Select all that are applicable):

- ☒ Newborns and Infants
- ☒ Toddlers and Pre-school
- ☒ Kindergarten and Elementary School
- ☒ Junior High and Middle School
- ☒ High School
- ☐ College and Vocational Training
- ☐ Postsecondary
- ☐ NA
- ☐ Other

If Other, please specify:

Applicable Vaccines (Select all that are applicable):

- ☒ Diphtheria (DT/DTaP)
- ☒ Hepatitis A
- ☒ Hepatitis B
- ☒ Hib (Haemophilus Influenzae Type b)
- ☒ HPV (Human papilloma virus)
- ☒ Tetanus (Tetanus Toxoid)
- ☒ Measles (MM)
- ☒ Pertussis (MM)
- ☒ Polio (IPV)
- ☒ Rubella (MM)
- ☒ Tetanus (T/TT)
- ☒ Varicella (MM)
- ☒ Other

If Other, please specify:

Exemption Type:

- ☒ Religious Exemption
- ☒ Philosophical or Conscientious Belief Exemption
- ☒ Medical Exemption
- ☐ NA
- ☐ Other

If Other, please specify:

Database Statistics

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Database Statistics

Statistics are based on laws in Categories 2 and 3

State	# Completed	# Partially Completed	# Not Started	# Total	% Completed	% Partially Completed	% Not Started
AK	12	0	0	12	100.00	0.00	0.00
AL	18	0	0	18	100.00	0.00	0.00
AR	23	0	0	23	100.00	0.00	0.00
AZ	84	0	0	84	100.00	0.00	0.00
CA	56	0	0	56	100.00	0.00	0.00
CO	27	0	0	27	100.00	0.00	0.00
CT	27	0	0	27	100.00	0.00	0.00
DC	20	0	0	20	100.00	0.00	0.00
DE	6	0	0	6	100.00	0.00	0.00
FL	27	0	0	27	100.00	0.00	0.00
GA	23	0	0	23	100.00	0.00	0.00
HI	32	0	0	32	100.00	0.00	0.00
IA	21	0	0	21	100.00	0.00	0.00
ID	35	0	0	35	100.00	0.00	0.00
IL	41	0	0	41	100.00	0.00	0.00

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Category of Law: ☐ N/A ☐ Applicable to Vaccine Requirement and Exemption Laws ☐ Applicable Only to Other Vaccination Laws

State: SELECT ALL

Keywords:

Submit Export to Excel

Application

- Public, free-of-charge and searchable legal database.
- Potential to investigate policy relevant questions including the relationship between the types and specific characteristics of medical and non-medical vaccine exemption laws or vaccination requirements:
 - Use of non-medical exemptions;
 - State-level vaccine uptake rates (overall and for specific diseases);
 - State-level incidence of outbreaks of communicable disease (pertussis and measles); and
- Association with parental, medical and school official attitudes, decisions and behaviors related to vaccination.
- Additionally, other sources of data could be used to investigate predictors of variation in state laws characteristics including financial, political, economic, and socio-demographic measures.

Future Plan

- Conduct policy-relevant analyses
- Periodic database updates
- Notify potential users of database availability
 - Citations in peer-reviewed literature that use the database
- Promotion of the resource by governmental and non-governmental vaccine-related organizations through their vaccine policy and law newsletters and blogs.

Link & Contact

Link to Database Hosting Site:
<http://publichealthlawresearch.org/>

Email: phlr@temple.edu

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