What is Policy Surveillance?

Methods | Significance | Process | Legal Mapping Introduction

Learning objectives

- Define "policy surveillance"

- Provide an overview of the policy surveillance process

- Explain the importance of policy surveillance

- Define "legal mapping"

Defining "policy surveillance"

- Tracks public health laws and policies over time and across jurisdictions

- Uses a rigorous scientific process to create data for evaluation and empirical research

What makes policy surveillance a scientific approach to collecting and analyzing laws?
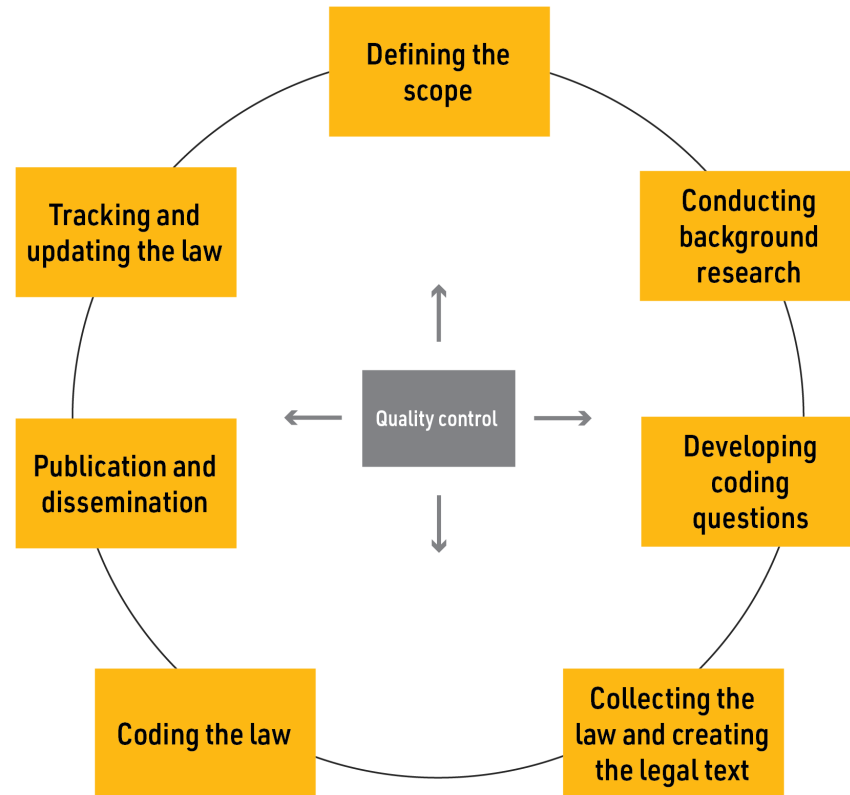
It uses a systematic approach
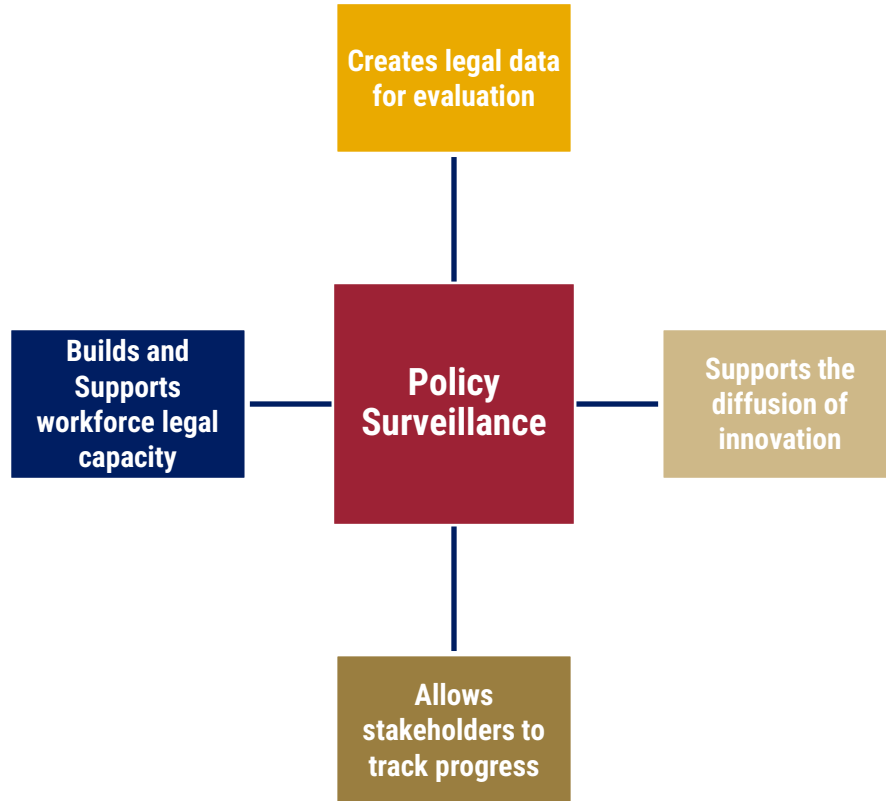
It emphasizes transparency

The process is replicable

There is a focus on delivering a highly accurate product through quality control

The policy surveillance process – overview

Why is policy surveillance important?

Creates legal data for evaluation

Builds and Supports workforce legal capacity

Policy Surveillance

Supports the diffusion of innovation

Allows stakeholders to track progress

What is "legal mapping"?

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

PUBLIC HEALTH LAW PRACTICE

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

LEGAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

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

Legal scan

Legal profile

Policy surveillance

Legal assessments

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

Summary

- **Policy surveillance**
  - Tracks public health laws and policies over time and across jurisdictions
  - Uses a rigorous scientific process to create data for evaluation and empirical research
- **The policy surveillance process**
  - Defining your scope and background research, question development, collecting and building the law, coding the law, quality control, publication and dissemination, and tracking and updating the law
- **Policy surveillance: significance**
  - Supports the diffusion of innovation
  - Allows stakeholders to track progress
  - Builds policy capacity in the health policy workforce
  - Creates data suitable for use in rigorous evaluation studies
- **Legal mapping**
  - Process for assessing and capturing important features and variation across laws and policies
  - Includes two different models for surveilling laws and policies on a topic
  - Legal epidemiology vs. public health law practice