



The Targeting of Scientists and Public Health Professionals September 1, 2022

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**Every day, people in public health work to
keep families and communities safe.**

It's up to us to [Stand With Public Health](#)

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The Problem

- Johns Hopkins researchers reported in [the American Journal of Public Health](#) that more than half of reporting public health agencies experienced at least one incidence of harassment.
- In the [deBeaumont Foundation 2021 PH WINS survey](#) more than half of public health employees reported symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder; 1 in 5 rated their mental health as fair or poor.; and more than 1 in 4 indicated they are considering leaving their organization.
- A Johns Hopkins survey published in [JAMA](#) found more than 1 in 5 US adults believed that harassing or threatening public health officials because of business closures during the COVID-19 pandemic was justified.
- The Network for Public Health Law [identified](#) legislation passed in more than half of U.S. states during the pandemic that undermines public health authority.

Actions Needed

- Support the public health workforce
- Reject efforts to sideline public health
- Revitalize public health agencies

Support the Public Health Workforce

Harassment, burnout, and stress are creating an exodus from the field and threatening public health agency capacity and preparedness

1 *Stand with Public Health.*

2 *Prioritize worker mental health and wellbeing.*

3 *Implement policies to support and protect the workforce.*

Defend Public Health Authority

The roll back of public health authority in more than half of U.S. States leaves our public health system ill equipped to address future public health threats.

1 *Defend the statutory authority of public health agencies.*

2 *Bolster public health collaborations with political leaders.*

3 *Communicate the importance of public health authority.*

Revitalize Public Health

We must break the cycle of boom-and-bust funding for governmental public health, where investments during a crisis are quickly eroded when the crisis fades.

1 *Rebuild and Sustain the public health infrastructure.*

2 *Invest in the workforce.*

3 *Modernize data systems.*

Stay Informed and Join the Effort!

Stand with Public Health

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