

## **Strengthening the Information Quality Act to Improve Federally Disseminated Public Health Information**

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Information can be widely disseminated that can undermine public health through the spread of misinformation. But what should be done when the federal government is disseminating this misinformation? The Information Quality Act (IQA), enacted in 2000, makes it possible for the public to serve as a check on government dissemination of information and the soundness of agency science. The text of the IQA requires federal agencies to “issue guidelines ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information (including statistical information) disseminated by the agency.” The IQA can help to ensure the accuracy of the information disseminated and promote transparency of the science used by agencies. Unfortunately, the IQA has not achieve its potential, in large part because of insufficient agency accountability and judicial decisions holding the IQA does not authorize judicial review.

This article will provide background on the IQA and explain how it can be strengthened to improve the accuracy of federally disseminated information, especially as it relates to public health. It will explain how such changes will improve the federal rulemaking process, such as by ensuring that sound science and data are used in policy formulation.