



Overview of Existing State Surgeon General Models

This table outlines key components of existing State Surgeon General (SSG) models in four states. The information presented in this table is based on experiences of former SSG who attended a meeting convened by the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) in September 2015 to explore opportunities and challenges for implementing a SSG model.

	Arkansas	Florida	Michigan	Pennsylvania
State Government Title	Surgeon General	Surgeon General and Secretary of Health	Surgeon General	Physician General
Years Implemented	2007 - Present	2007 - Present	2003 - 2010	1996 - Present
Appointed by Governor?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Located within Health Department?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Health Commissioner Required to be Physician?	No	Yes	No	No
Reporting Structure	Reports to governor as cabinet level advisor	Reports to governor	Reported to health commissioner and governor as a subcabinet official	Reports to health commissioner
Position Codified?	Yes; Act 384 of 2007 Regular Session	Yes; Act 40 of 2007 Regular Session	No	Yes; Act 87 of 1996 Session
Dual Role?	Yes; 50% SSG and 50% other*	Yes; Also health commissioner and state health officer	No	No
Key Roles	Health strategist and medical advisor	Public health advocate	Public health advocate and medical advisor	Medical and public health advisor

* In Arkansas, the first SSG was an academic for 50% of their time and the current SSG functions as 50% emergency room physician.