Finding Aid for the Lester Breslow Papers LSC.2246

UCLA Library Special Collections
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URL: https://www.library.ucla.edu/special-collections
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: UCLA Library Special Collections
Title: Lester Breslow papers
Creator: Breslow, Lester
Identifier/Call Number: LSC.2246
Physical Description: 53.6 Linear Feet (134 boxes)
Date (inclusive): 1932-2009
Abstract: Lester Breslow was a former dean of the UCLA School of Public Health, professor emeritus of health services, and one of the leading figures in public health. He was born March 17, 1915 in Bismarck, ND, and received a BS in Psychology (1935) from the University of Minnesota, where he also earned his medical and public health degrees (MD, 1938; MPH, 1941). He is widely known for his early advocacy and research into health promotion and disease prevention. This collection consists of materials related to Breslow's professional research, scholarship, and leadership in the field of public health both as a UCLA professor and as a researcher and advocate in non-UCLA affiliated projects. The papers include professional correspondence, research notes and files, authored reports and related materials, conference presentation and talks, legislative testimonies and related materials.
Language of Material: Materials are in English.

Conditions Governing Access
COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE: Open for research. All requests to access special collections materials must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.

Conditions Governing Use
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Lester Breslow papers (Collection 2246). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

Source of Acquisition
Devra Breslow; Gift; 2014.

Processing Information
Preliminary processing by Charlotte B. Brown. Processed by Angel Diaz, 2018. Collection includes one unprocessed CD and one unprocessed DVD.

UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 8582513

Biographical / Historical
Lester Breslow was a former dean of the UCLA School of Public Health, professor emeritus of health services, and one of the leading figures in public health. He was born March 17, 1915 in Bismarck, ND, and received a BS in Psychology (1935) from the University of Minnesota, where he also earned his medical and public health degrees (MD, 1938; MPH, 1941). After serving as a US Army captain in the Pacific Division during World War II, Breslow went on to the California Department of Public Health, first as Chief of the Bureau of Chronic Diseases (1946-1960), then Chief of the Division of Preventive Medical Services (1960-1965), and then Director of Public Health (1965-1968). Breslow is widely known for his early advocacy and research into health promotion and disease prevention. Through pioneering studies relying on the Alameda County Human Population Laboratory beginning in the early 1960s, he helped to identify the important influence of behavior on disability and premature death. His research was among the first to show that simple health practices, such as getting regular exercise and sleep, not drinking excessively, not smoking, and maintaining a healthy weight, supports longer and better quality of life.

Breslow joined the UCLA School of Public Health faculty in 1968, serving as Dean of the School of Public Health from 1972-1980, and continued speaking and writing as professor emeritus well into his 90s. He served on numerous local, state, national, and international associations and commissions. He served as president of the International Epidemiological

Scope and Contents
This collection consists of materials related to the professional research, scholarship, and leadership in the field of public health of American physician Lester Breslow, a UCLA professor and dean of the School of Public Health. His research interests were health promotion, disease prevention, and public health programs. The papers include professional correspondence, research notes and files, authored reports and related materials, conference presentations and talks, legislative testimonies and related materials. This collection also includes administrative materials such as correspondence, memos, agendas, and reports related to Breslow’s work at the UCLA School of Public Health, as well as his extensive involvement with local, state, and national committees and commissions.

Arrangement
This collection has been arranged in the following series:

Series 1: Teaching and university affairs, 1938-2009
Series 2: Research scholarship, 1932-2008
  Subseries 2.1: Resource files, 1932-2005
  Subseries 2.2: Grants and research, 1958-2006
  Subseries 2.3: Publications and reports, 1949-2008
  Subseries 2.4: Conference presentations and talks, 1955-2007
  Subseries 3.1: Committees and consulting, 1971-2009
  Subseries 3.2: Legislation and testimonies, 1950-2003

Materials are organized alphabetically, with the exception Subseries 2.3. Materials in Subseries 2.3 are organized chronologically.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
COLLECTION CONTAINS DIGITAL MATERIALS: Special equipment or further processing may be required for viewing. All requests to access special collections materials must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Public health -- United States
Health care reform -- United States
Health promotion -- United States
Breslow, Lester -- Archives
University of California, Los Angeles. School of Public Health. Faculty -- Archives

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Series 1: Teaching and university affairs 1938-2009
Scope and Contents
This series is composed of professional correspondence and materials related to Breslow’s occupation as faculty member and dean of the UCLA School of Public Health (SPH), including biographical materials, administrative and planning documents, memos, and reports. The correspondence is largely between Breslow and colleagues at UCLA, other universities, and local and national agencies. Breslow was involved in the establishment of public health education programs throughout the UC system, as well as evaluation and development of UC employee health advocacy and medical plans.

box 1, folder 1-2 Biographical materials 1968-1990
box 1, folder 3 Correspondence: Abrams, Herbet 1995-2000
box 1, folder 4 Correspondence: Affifi, Abdelmonem 2000
box 4, folder 1 Correspondence: Armed Forces Epidemiological Board 1975-1976
box 1, folder 5 Correspondence: Bernstein, James, National Health Network 1985
box 1, folder 6 Correspondence: Cook, Donald 1983 April 7
box 1, folder 7 Correspondence: Fielding, Jonathan 1976-2002
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<thead>
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<th>Box</th>
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<td>Correspondence: Glantz, Stanton 2003</td>
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<td>Correspondence: Health Services and Mental Health Administration 1972-1973</td>
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<td>Correspondence: Karsh, Yousuf 1980 January 1</td>
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<td>Correspondence: Kitching, William 1974 August 15</td>
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<td>Correspondence: Los Angeles County Medical Advisory Council 1975</td>
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<td>Correspondence: Los Angeles Office of Mayor 1973-1981</td>
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<td>Correspondence: The Nation's Health 1975 March 17</td>
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<td>Correspondence: Preventive medical services in state funded medical care programs 1976</td>
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<td>Correspondence: Public Citizen's Health Research Group 1976</td>
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<td>Correspondence: Riedel, Donald 1981-1982</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Correspondence: Rivin, Arthur 1981-1982</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Correspondence: Russo, Anthony 1982</td>
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<td>Correspondence: Satellite Network of America 1985</td>
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<td>Correspondence: Udvarhelvyi, George B. 1985</td>
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<td>UCLA: Ad Hoc Committee, Harary 1982 March 24</td>
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<td>UCLA: Center on Aging 1994</td>
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<td>UCLA: Center for Health Enhancement Education and Policy circa 1981-1986</td>
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<td>UCLA: Center for Health Policy Research 1994</td>
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<td>UCLA: Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse 1972-1975</td>
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<td>UCLA: Committee on Delivery of Services to Defined Populations 1983-1984</td>
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**UCLA: Dependency disorders 1972-1973**

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**UCLA: Distinguished lectureship 1980-1988**

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**UCLA: Division of Health Services meeting minutes 1983-1987**

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**UCLA: Gerontology Center 1981**

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**UCLA: Graduate Council 1981**

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**UCLA: Health Promotion Center 1982-1986**

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**UCLA: Medicine, School of 1972-1986**

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**UCLA: Neuropsychiatric Institute 1985**

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**UCLA: Nursing, School of 1983**

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**UCLA: Program for Advanced Study of Social and Behavioral Sciences 1984**

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**UCLA SPH: Administrative materials circa 1979-1980**

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**UCLA SPH: Annual reports 1980-1988**

box 18, folder 3-5  
**UCLA SPH: Association of Schools of Public Health 1978-1980**

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**UCLA SPH: Beverly Myers faculty appointment 1983**

box 19, folder 2  
**UCLA SPH: Bioterrorism 2002**

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**UCLA SPH: California Pipe Trade Council 1980**

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**UCLA SPH: China Exchange 1982-1992**

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**UCLA SPH: Community Affairs Committee 1981-1986**

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**UCLA SPH: Community involvement 1982-1999**

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**UCLA SPH: Community health report card 1997-1999**

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**UCLA SPH: Dean’s Advisory Board 1995-2007**

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**UCLA SPH: Faculty interviews 1972**

box 21, folder 2  
**UCLA SPH: Faculty-student ratio 1976 March 9**

box 21, folder 3  
**UCLA SPH: Goals and objectives undated**

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**UCLA SPH: Health Behavior and Cancer Control Advisory Committee 1976-1977**

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**UCLA SPH: Health Impact Assessment Impact Project 2002-2003**

box 21, folder 6  
**UCLA SPH: Health Services, Department of 2004**

box 21, folder 7  
**UCLA SPH: Hospital Satellite Network 1985**

box 21, folder 8  
**UCLA SPH: HS 207 guest lecture 2009**

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**UCLA SPH: Jonsson Cancer Center 1993-1994**

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**UCLA SPH: Los Angeles County Department of Health Services 1994-1995**

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**UCLA SPH: Merger of Department of Preventive Medicine and Social Medicine and School of Public Health 1972-1975**

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**UCLA SPH: Office of Smoking and Health 1978-1981**

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**UCLA SPH: Preventive Medicine Residency program 1981-1987**

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**UCLA SPF: Professional schools restructuring initiatives 1993-1996**

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**UCLA SPF: Publications 1968-1987**

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**UCLA SPF: Statements by Breslow as Dean of SPH 1973-1976**

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**UCLA SPF: Strategic Planning Community Committee 1993**

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**UCLA SPH: Student Affairs Committee 1981-1985**

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**UC: Health Assessment/Living Well 2005-2006**

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**UC: Health plans 2002-2006**

box 23, folder 7-8, box 24, folder 1-5  
**UC: Stay Well/Wellness Coalition 1993-2007**
Series 2: Research and scholarship 1932-2008

Scope and Contents
This series consists of materials related to the research and scholarship conducted by Breslow. His research interests were health promotion, disease prevention, and public health programs. Materials include correspondence, research notes and files, authored reports and related materials, conference presentations and talks.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
SERIES CONTAINS DIGITAL MATERIALS: Special equipment or further processing may be required for viewing. All requests to access special collections materials must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.

Subseries 2.1: Resource files 1932-2005

Scope and Contents
This subseries consists of Breslow's subject files related to his research, as well as materials related to his personal life. This includes correspondence, data sets, reports, meeting minutes and agendas, materials related to the Academic Senate, faculty interviews, and lectures. Topics include AIDS, air pollution, health care issues in California, cancer, public health legislation, pre-paid health plans, anti-smoking campaigns, correspondence with public health administrator David Satcher, and tobacco.

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box 29, folder 9-10
box 29, folder 11

AIDS 1988-1989
Air pollution 1972
Assorted 1981-2004
Bulletin of the International Corresponding Club 1955-1958
Bureau of Health Care Services 1966
CA health issues 1953-1980
California legislation: Beilenson legislation 1973-1975
California policy seminar 1982
Cancer control and research methods 1963-1977
Cardiovascular data 1974-1975
Carter, Jimmy file 1976-1977
Center for Health Enhancement Education and Research 1980-1985
Coastal region public health service 1981-1984
E.I. Dupont de Nemours and Co. 1979-1984
Evaluation criteria for functioning pre-paid health plans and HMOs 1972-1973
Governor's health care proposal circa 2007
Group Against Smoking Pollution (GASP) 1970
Health care 1970-1980
Health consequences of the Casmalia resources waste disposal facility 1989
Health promotion 1940-1991
Health publications circa 1968-1970
Health workers 1975-1976
Heart disease 1978 October
Implications of national health insurance for health care in California 1970
Incorporation of preventive medical services into national health services circa 1974-1978
Kabasele, Karl. Transcripts of oral interviews 1997 September
Mammography 1975-1976
National Cancer Institute 1974-1978
National health insurance 1932-1977
Pediatrics 1965
Preventive health care 1967-1994
Progress report on mammography 1976
Subseries 2.1: Resource files 1932-2005

Finding Aid for the Lester Breslow Papers LSC.2246

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  - San Diego State University circa 1981
- box 30, folder 1 Santa Barbara County health care service 1980-1982
- box 30, folder 2 Satcher, David 1996
- box 30, folder 4 State of California 1981
- box 30, folder 5 Tobacco: Enstrom, James circa 2000-2005
- box 31, folder 1 US health care reform and public health 1993 April
- box 31, folder 2 Veterans administration 1982-1986
- box 31, folder 4 Vitamin A material 1981
- box 31, folder 5 Weinerman, E.R. 1970
- box 31, folder 6 Well-being and medical care 1973-1980
- box 31, folder 7 Western consortium 1983
- box 31, folder 8

Subseries 2.2: Grants and research 1958-2006

Scope and Contents
This subseries contains materials related to grants and funding for Breslow's research projects. This includes correspondence, reports, applications, meeting minutes, and planning and program documents. Areas of research or funders include the American Cancer Society's California division, public health improvement projects, children's health care, the Kaiser Family Foundation, community cancer control in Los Angeles, Medi-Cal programs, national health insurance, cancer and related health risks, and the Human Population Laboratory (HPL). HPL was a landmark study conducted in Alameda County by Breslow which looked at the correlation between lifestyle factors such as exercise, smoking, and sleep and a person's lifespan.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
SUBSERIES CONTAINS DIGITAL MATERIALS: Special equipment or further processing may be required for viewing. All requests to access special collections materials must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.

- box 31, folder 9-11 American Cancer Society-California division 1971-1973
- box 31, folder 12-13 American Health Foundation 1971-1977
- box 32, folder 1-5 Beverly Hills school district circa 1983-1984
- box 32, folder 6-9 California Council for Health Plan Alternatives 1968-1971
- box 33, box 34, folder 1-7 California public health improvement project 1982-1998
- box 34, folder 8, box 35, box 36 California state health plan policy strategy 1972-1973
- box 37, folder 1 Center for Ischemic Cardiovascular Disease 1973
- box 37, folder 2-4 Children's coverage program 2005
- box 37, folder 5 California Council for Health Plan Alternatives 1968-1971
- box 37, folder 6 Children health services 2001-2005
- box 37, folder 7-8 Community cancer control, Los Angeles 1976-1984
- box 37, folder 8-9 El Monte health promotion 1989-1994
- box 38, box 39, folder 1 Enstrom, epidemiology of cancer among Mormons 1975-1980
- box 39, box 40, box 41, folder 1 Health care financing administration 1996-2000
- box 40, box 41, folder 1 Health risk appraisal for the elderly 1997-1998
- box 41, folder 2-7 Health promotion 1982-1992
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Folder 1-3

Health maintenance committee 1980-1981
Healthy children circa 1985

History of cancer control 1974-1977

HIV prevention trials unit 1999

Human population laboratory 1958-2001

Scope and Contents
Box 48 contains one CD labelled: HPL - Breslow data.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
BOX 48 CONTAINS DIGITAL MATERIALS: Special equipment or further processing may be required for viewing. All requests to access special collections materials must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.

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Kaiser Family Foundation health promotion program 1986-1989
Know Your Body program circa 1995
Los Angeles cancer control research unit 1975-1985

Mammography 1975-1978

Medi-Cal 1966-1975

Milbank Memorial Fund 1977-1982
National Coalition on Disease Prevention and Environmental Health 1978-1979
National health insurance committee 1970-1980

Natural history of health disparities 2001-2004
New York Academy of Sciences public health and medicine 1996-1997
Prevention of disease 1977-1978
Proposition 99 1989-1995
Public health programs for California children circa 2004-2006
Rand Corporation 1973-1983
Risk factors project 1978-1984

School health undated
Senior health profile 1994-1997
Task force on heart disease 1978
UCLA cancer control developmental outreach grant 1974-1984
UCLA Jonsson Cancer Center Core Grant 1980-1982
**Series 2: Research and scholarship 1932-2008**

**Subseries 2.3: Publications and reports 1949-2008**

**Scope and Contents**

This subseries covers reports and other publications authored or co-authored by Breslow. Materials include correspondence, notes, and reports. Topics addressed in this subseries include cancer and health care, epidemiology, health education, mammography, follow-up for the San Mateo nutrition study, and links between smoking, chronic diseases and cancer.

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- box 82, folder 9,
- box 83, folder 1-5
- box 83, folder 6
- box 83, folder 7
- box 83, folder 8
- box 83, folder 9
- box 84, folder 1-2
- box 84, folder 3-4
- box 84, folder 5
- box 84, folder 6

**Cancer and healthcare 1960-1968**

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**Epidemiology manpower circa 1974**

- box 82, folder 7

**Health education and promotion 1966-2003**

- box 82, folder 8

**Lifetime health monitoring program 1968-1978**

- box 82, folder 9

**Malignant melanoma for Kaiser Foundation 1984-1985**

- box 83, folder 1

**Mammography 1977**

- box 83, folder 2

**Measuring health in the third era 2007-2008**

- box 83, folder 3

**Policies for cancer control circa 1988-1991**

- box 83, folder 4

**Risk factors 1977-1979**

- box 83, folder 5

**Seven-year follow-up of the San Mateo nutrition study population 1957**

- box 83, folder 6

**Smoking, chronic disease, and cancer 1949-1958**

- box 83, folder 7

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**Subseries 2.4: Conference presentations and talks 1955-2007**

**Scope and Contents**

This subseries contains materials related to conferences Breslow attended and talks he gave. Topics include children's health care, health care provision in California, environmentally influenced disease, the role of health workers, epidemiology, the Human Population Laboratory, and the National Conference on Preventative Medicine. Box 94 includes one DVD that contains a lecture by Breslow.

**Arrangement**

This subseries has been organized in chronological order.

**Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements**

SUBSERIES CONTAINS DIGITAL MATERIALS: Special equipment or further processing may be required for viewing. All requests to access special collections materials must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.

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**Series 3: Non-university work 1950-2009**

**Scope and Contents**

This series covers Breslow's work that was not related to his teaching position at UCLA. This includes committees he sat on, consulting work, legislation he worked on, and testimonies he provided for court cases. Topics include tobacco, Los Angeles County health services, the Little Hoover Commission, reports for the California legislature, and health care costs.

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**Subseries 3.1: Committees and consulting 1971-2009**

**Scope and Contents**

This subseries consists of materials related to Breslow's participation in local, state, and national committees and commissions, as well as consulting services he provided. His involvement varied from chair to reviewer, and prominent committees he served on include the Asbestiform Fibers Committee, the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board, the Governor's Committee on Health Care Costs, the Institute of Medicine, National Cancer Institute, and the President's Commission on the Health Needs of the Nation.

- box 96, folder 6-7.
- box 97, folder 1-4
- box 97, folder 5

**Asbestiform fibers committee 1982-1983**

- box 96, folder 6-7.

**American Cancer Society California Division Task Force 1982-1984**

- box 97, folder 1-4
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<td>Armed forces epidemiological board 1978-1979</td>
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<td>California Wellness Foundation 1996-1999</td>
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<td>Efficacy and safety advisory panel circa 1980</td>
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<td>box 100, folder 1-2</td>
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<td>Health Care Policy Advisory Board 2000</td>
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<td>President's commission 1943-1952</td>
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Subseries 3.2: Legislation and testimonies 1950-2003

Scope and Contents
This subseries contains materials related to court cases Breslow testified for or legislation he supported. Materials include correspondence, reports, meeting minutes, and other documents regarding state and national legislation. Topics include health care costs at the state level, the Child Health Assurance Act, health care workers, public health recodification, and support and funding for health services and research.

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Annotations of California legislature report 1950
Association of Schools of Public Health 1978-1979

California Assembly on health care costs 1978

Child health assurance act 1978
Cranston presidential campaign 1983
Health manpower 1978
Health services and research 1977-1982

Public health recodification 1984
Senate subcommittee on health and scientific research 1977-1978

Superior Court of California 2003-2003
U.S. Senate 1985 June 14