

Summary of the 2024 Proposed Policy Statement Review Process by the Joint Policy Committee (JPC)

October 2024

Table 1: 2024 New Proposed Policy Statement Review Timeline

Feb. 16	A total of 14 proposed policy statements were submitted by the deadline. All of these proposed policy statements met the minimum required author guidelines and were accepted into 2024 process
March 25	APHA members submitted reviews on proposed policy statements, which were forwarded to the Science Board and JPC to consider in their reviews of each proposal
April 18-19	The Science Board evaluated each proposed policy and provided its assessment of the scientific evidence and scientific reasoning to the JPC
May 2-3	The JPC conducted its initial policy statement proposal review and gave each proposal one of the following assessments (See Table 2, Column A): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Positive- Proposed policy statement meets all guidelines, is scientifically sound and concisely written; any changes necessary are minor and can be addressed in the copy-editing phase. ● Conditional- Proposed policy statement meets most guidelines but requires some revision to strengthen the arguments presented and improve formatting (author(s) are requested to

	<p>make revisions based on JPC comments and resubmit by August 16).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative- Proposed policy statement does not meet guidelines, lacks or improperly cites scientific evidence, arguments presented are biased or one-sided, and/or contains major grammatical and formatting errors (Authors receiving a negative assessment could opt to keep the proposal in the review process and make revisions based on JPC comments and resubmit by August 16; and/or appeal to the Executive Board; or withdraw the proposed policy statement from the 2024 cycle and resubmit in a subsequent cycle. They were required to notify the JPC by June 7 of the intent to proceed in the cycle). <p>Five received an initial assessment of conditional and nine received an initial assessment of negative from the JPC in May.</p> <p>Following discussion and voting on the assessments for C3: Antisemitism as a Public Health Crisis and C5: Support for Health Equity and Justice in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, the JPC found that the contents of these proposed policy statements represented a departure from APHA’s intent to provide substantially new, evidence-based policy statements on significant public health issues containing action steps that should be taken by entities external to APHA. A motion was made to remove proposed policy statements C3 and C5 from the 2024 proposed policy statement review cycle. The motion was passed by the JPC unanimously.</p>
<p>May 5-7</p>	<p>The JPC co-chairs then carried the motion to the Executive Board to remove C3 and C5 from the 2024 proposed policy statement review cycle. The Executive Board approved the motion and C3 and C5 were removed from the 2024 proposed policy statement review cycle.</p>

	<p>Recognizing the great importance of the issues these statements aimed to address, the Executive Board agreed to commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a proposed policy statement to address the public health impacts of hate and discrimination, and • an update of Policy Statement 20095, The Role of Public Health Practitioners, Academics and Advocates in Relation to Armed Conflict and War.
August 24	<p>10 proposed policy statements were revised and resubmitted. The revised statements and the authors response to the JPC spring comments were posted to the web for member review.</p>
September 23 and 24	<p>The JPC convened via conference call to discuss the 10 resubmissions and gave each proposal either a Positive or Negative assessment (see Table 2, Column C) based on the criteria below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did the revised version of the proposed policy statement adequately address the changes, recommendations and clarifications requested in the JPC’s conditional OR negative assessment letter to the author? • Is there new data, information, events or concerns regarding the proposed policy statement revisions that require additional edits from the author in order for the JPC to move the proposal forward to the public hearings? • Could the remaining issues (if any) be reasonably addressed by the JPC at its business meeting on the Monday of the Annual Meeting (in preparation for the Governing Council’s Tuesday vote)? • What additional revisions should be made to the proposed policy statement before the public hearings?

	<p>The JPC determined that seven of the resubmitted proposed policy statements were ready to move forward to the public hearings and gave them a positive assessment.</p> <p>Three of resubmitted proposed policy statements received a negative assessment as they did not adequately address the changes, recommendations and clarifications requested in the JPC’s spring review. Authors who received negative could opt to keep the proposal in the review process; appeal to the Executive Board; or withdraw the proposed policy statement from the 2024 cycle and resubmit in a subsequent cycle. If they chose to continue in the cycle, they were required to notify the JPC of this intent by October 11. Otherwise, they were automatically removed from the cycle.</p> <p>The authors of B2 and C1 chose to move forward to the public hearings. The authors of A3 did not notify JPC of their intent to move forward by the October 11 deadline, thus the proposed statement was removed from consideration.</p>
October 6	Two Late-Breaker Proposed Policy Statements were submitted by the deadline. Neither was deemed to meet the criteria of a late-breaker and these statements were not accepted into the review process.
October 16	Authors were given the option to submit a revised statement following receipt of the JPC fall review comments. The authors of 6 statements submitted additional revisions (these were posted to the web in track changes).
October 21 and 22	<p>Proposed policy statements were discussed during the virtual public hearings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10/21- Groups A ● 10/22-Groups B and C
October 27	The JPC developed final recommendations for proposed policy statements to present to the Governing Council.

	The JPC final recommendations and final drafts of the proposed policy statements are posted to the web and were shared with the Governing Council
October 29	Governing Council will consider JPC recommendations on proposed policy statements and vote to approve new policy statements.

Table 2. JPC Assessments of APHA 2024 New Proposed Policy Statements

To view the proposed policy statements up for discussion and vote by the Governing Council please visit: <https://apha.org/Policies-and-Advocacy/Public-Health-Policy-Statements/Proposed-Policy-Statements>

2024 Proposed Policy Statements					
Proposed Policy Statement	JPC Initial Assessment	Resubmitted in August	JPC Fall Assessment	Forwarded to the Public Hearings	JPC Final Recommendation
A1: Supporting Physical Activity for Transgender Individuals	Negative	Yes	Positive	Yes	Adopt
A2: Increasing Access to Telehealth Medication Abortion in the United States	Negative	Yes	Positive	Yes	Do Not Adopt * A2 moved from a positive assessment in Fall 2024 to the recommendation to not adopt due to significant concerns, including major deficiencies in the evidence base, raised by

					representative from the Sexual and Reproductive Health Section at the public hearings, as well as during the Science Board's and JPC's business meeting in October 2024.
A3: A Call to Protect Access to Gender Affirming Care Nationwide in the Wake of Stricter Health System Religious Practices	Negative	Yes	Negative	No	N/A
A4: Actions to Incorporate Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Health Care Practices into Primary Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Policies	Conditional	Yes	Positive	Yes	Adopt
A5: Advancing Community-Based Participatory Practice in Public Health	Conditional	Yes	Positive	Yes	Adopt

A6: The Case for Equity and Justice-Centered Racial and Ethnic Public Health Data Collection Practices	Negative	Yes	Positive	Yes	Adopt
B1: Equitably Applying Artificial Intelligence in the United States Workforce Using Training and Collaboration	Negative	Yes	Positive	Yes	Adopt
B2: Protecting the Health and Safety of Workers Who Respond to Disasters: Achieving Equity Through Education and Training	Conditional	Yes	Negative	Yes	Adopt
B3: A Multi-Component Approach to Increasing Prescription Drug Safety	Conditional	Yes	Positive	Yes	Adopt
C1: Meeting the Health and Psychosocial Needs and Ensuring the Human Rights of Refugees from Nagorno Karabakh	Negative	Yes	Negative	Yes	Do Not Adopt * The JPC does not recommend adoption of C1. Concern from the Science Board and

					the JPC remain following a negative assessment in the Fall 24, primarily around the lack of connection between the Problem Statement, Evidence Based Strategies and Action Steps.
C2: A Call for Comprehensive Solutions: Addressing Puerto Rico’s Public Health and Healthcare Crisis	Conditional	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
C3: Antisemitism as a Public Health Crisis	Negative *Removed from 2024 PPS Review	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
C4: Considering Public Health in International Sanctions	Negative	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
C5: Support for Health Equity and Justice in the Occupied Palestinian Territories	Negative *Removed from 2024 PPS Review	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

See the following links for:

[Policy Statement Development Process](#)
[APHA Proposed Policy Statement Submission Guidelines](#)
[2024 Policy Statement Development and Review Calendar](#)
[JPC 2024 Spring Business Meeting Minutes](#)
[JPC 2024 Fall Business Meeting Minutes](#)
[Consent Agenda for Governing Council October 2024](#)