



Summary of the 2023 Proposed Policy Statement Review Process by the Joint Policy Committee (JPC)

November 2023

Table 1: 2023 New Proposed Policy Statement Review Timeline

Feb. 13	A total of 13 proposed policy statements were submitted by the deadline. All of these proposed policy statements met the minimum required author guidelines and were accepted in to 2023 process
March 21	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 14-17	Science Board evaluated each proposed policy and provided its assessment to the JPC
April 27-28	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 statements meets all guidelines, is scientifically sound and concisely written; any changes necessary are minor and can be addressed in the copyediting phase (Proposal automatically moves forward to the public hearings). • Conditional- Proposed policy statement requires revisions to strengthen the arguments, evidence, and action steps presented and/or to improve minor formatting and grammatical issues

	<p>(Author(s) are requested to make revisions based on JPC comments and resubmit by August 24).</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 may opt to keep the proposal in the review process and make revisions based on JPC comments and resubmit by August 24; and/or appeal to the Executive Board; or withdraw the proposed policy statement from the 2023 cycle and resubmit in a subsequent cycle). <p>8 received an initial assessment of conditional and 5 received an initial assessment of negative from the JPC in May.</p>
August 24	<p>6 proposed policy statements were revised and resubmitted. The revised statements and the author's response to the JPC spring comments were posted to the web for member review.</p>
September 26 and 28	<p>The JPC conveyed via conference call to discuss the 6 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? (If not, please be specific about what was NOT adequately addressed) • 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 Sunday 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?

	The JPC determined that all 6 of the resubmitted proposed policy statements were ready to move forward to the public hearings and gave them a positive assessment.
October 10	The JPC fall assessments of the revised proposed policy statements were posted to the web for member review. Authors were given the option to submit a revised statement following receipt of the JPC fall review comments.
October 20	5 Late-Breaker Proposed Policy Statements were submitted to policy@apha.org by 11:59pm (EDT). 2 were deemed to meet the criteria of a late-breaker and accepted into the review process by the JPC co-chairs.
October 23	Authors were given the option to submit a revised statement following receipt of the JPC fall review comments. The authors of 5 statements (A2, A3, B1, B2 and B3) submitted additional revisions (these were posted to the web in track changes).
November 1 and 2	Proposed policy statements were discussed during the virtual public hearings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11/1- Groups A and C • 11/2-Groups B and Late-Breakers
November 12	JPC develops 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 shared with the Governing Council
November 14	Governing Council considers JPC recommendations on proposed policy statements and votes to approve new policy statements.

Table 2. JPC Assessments of APHA 2023 New Proposed Policy Statements

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

2023 Proposed Policy Statements					
Proposed Policy Statement	JPC Spring Assessment	Resubmitted in August	JPC Fall Assessment	Forwarded to Public Hearings	JPC Final Recommendation
A1: Public Health Action that Support Implementation of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline	Negative	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
A2: Partnering with Faith-Based Organization to Improve Global Routine Vaccinations Rates Across the Lifecourse	Conditional	Yes	Positive	Yes	Adopt
A3: Supporting Youth Activity Opportunities in Out of School Time Programs	Negative	Yes	Positive	Yes	Adopt
A4: Strengthening Public Health Nursing in the United States	Negative	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
A5: Address System-Mediated Patient Safety in Community	Conditional	No	N/A	N/A	N/A

Pharmacies to Improve Public Health					
B1: A Call to End for Shackling During Healthcare	Conditional	Yes	Positive	Yes	Adopt
B2: Protecting the Health and Well-Being of People Living Unsheltered by Stopping Forcible Displacement (Sweeps) of Encampments	Conditional	Yes	Positive	Yes	Adopt
B3: Cooperation in Healthcare and Public Health as A Bridge to Positive Peace Between Israel and Palestine	Conditional	Yes	Positive	Yes	Do Not Adopt
B4: Respecting the Right to Health through Humane International Sanctions	Conditional	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
C1: Falls Prevention in Adults Aged 65 and Over: A Call for Increased Use of Evidence-Based Falls Prevention Algorithm	Conditional	Yes	Positive	Yes	Adopt
C2: Preventing Mercury Exposure from Dental	Negative	No	N/A	N/A	N/A

Amalgam in High-Risk Populations					
C3: Youth Access to PrEP: A Public Health Approach to Increase Access to Care and Reduce HIV Incidence and Health Disparities	Conditional	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
C4: Actions to Incorporate Traditional, Complementary, and Integrative Health Care Practice into Primary Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Practice	Negative	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
LB1: Cease-Fire Now in Hamas-Israel War & End Attacks on Health and Human Rights	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Do Not Adopt
LB2: Meeting the health and psychosocial needs and ensuring the human rights of refugees from Nagorno Karabakh	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Adopt

See the following links for:

[Policy Statement Development Process](#)
[APHA Proposed Policy Statement Submission Guidelines](#)
[2023 Policy Statement Development and Review Calendar](#)
[JPC 2023 Spring Business Meeting Minutes](#)
[JPC 2023 Fall Business Meeting Minutes](#)
[Consent Agenda for Governing Council Nov 2023](#)