



Science Board 2023 Report to the Governing Council

November 11, 2023

Members of the 2021-2022 Science Board

Apryl Brown, MD, MPH- Chair
Kevin Sykes, PhD, MPH- Vice Chair
Ruchi Bhandari, PhD, MPA, MBA
Barbara Giloth, DrPH, MPH
Jeffrey Hall, PhD, MA, MSPH, CPH
Jyotsna Jagai, PhD, MPH
Ben King, PhD
Toby Levin, PhD, MPH, CPH, CHES
Kusuma Madamala, PhD, MPH
Krista Mincey, DrPH, MPH
Kathryn Mishkin, DrPH, MPH, MA
Oroma Nwanodi, MD, DHSc
Syrill Pettit, DrPH, MEM
Sreelekha Prakash, MD, MPH
Sarah Roberts, DrPH, MPH
Kara Suvada, BS
Catherine Troisi, PhD

A. Description of Issues

The Science Board (SB) is pleased to submit its 2022-2023 Annual Report to the Governing Council

B. Discussion

As stated in Article VII, Section 5, of the APHA Bylaws, the Science Board is tasked with stimulating and coordinating the development of the scientific basis for the Association's professional and public policy programs. The Science Board carries out these functions through the board and its subcommittees. As an integral part of the policy development process, the Science Board ensures that proposed APHA policy statements have scientific merit. The board

also sponsors a scientific session at the Annual Meeting and provides scientific advice to the association.

Over the course of the year, the full Science Board met virtually five times as follows:

- November 6, 2023- Annual Meeting
- January 11, 2023- Introduction to Proposed Policy Statement Review
- February 27, 2023- Business meeting
- April 14, 2023- Policy Review/Business Meeting Day 1
- April 17, 2023- Policy Review/Business Meeting Day 2

Policy Review

During its April 14 and 17, 2023 meeting, the Science Board conducted a scientific review of proposed policy statement and made recommendations to the JPC on the scientific evidence reasoning and evidence. The Science Board criteria to assess the quality and strength of the scientific evidence and reasoning were as follows:

Strength of the Evidence - Ratings in this section reflect the strength of evidence included only (i.e., all seminal works were included, strength of evidence based on the study design/findings), regardless of whether the evidence is presented in a logical manner.

1. Strong Evidence
2. Sufficient Evidence
3. Insufficient Evidence
 - a. Requires minimal additional evidence
 - b. Requires a lot of additional evidence

Strength of Scientific Reasoning - Ratings in this section reflect the quality of the scientific reasoning, or logical progression of ideas to support the claims made, regardless of the strength of the evidence presented.

1. Strong Scientific Reasoning
2. Sufficient Scientific Reasoning
3. Insufficient Scientific Reasoning
 - a. Requires minimal revision
 - b. Requires major revision

Of the 13 proposed policy statements reviewed, 0 received an assessment of strong evidence, 0 received an assessment of sufficient evidence, 1 received an assessment of insufficient evidence- requires minimal additional evidence, and 12 received an assessment of insufficient evidence- requires major additional evidence; 0 received an assessment of strong scientific reasoning, 1 received an assessment of sufficient scientific reasoning, 0 received an assessment of insufficient scientific reasoning- requires minor revision and 12 received an assessment of insufficient scientific reasoning- requires major revision.

Science Board Spring Assessments

Proposed Policy Statement	Scientific Evidence Rating	Scientific Reasoning Rating
A1- Public Health Actions to Support Implementation of 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline	3b- Insufficient evidence; requires a lot of additional evidence	3b- Insufficient scientific reasoning; requires major revision
A2- Partnering with Faith-Based Organizations to Improve Global Vaccination Rates Across the Lifecourse	3b- Insufficient evidence; requires a lot of additional evidence	3b- Insufficient scientific reasoning; requires major revision
A3- Supporting Youth Physical Activity Opportunities in Out of School Time Programs	3b- Insufficient evidence; requires a lot of additional evidence	3b- Insufficient scientific reasoning; requires major revision
A4- Strengthening Public Health Nursing Across the United States	3b- Insufficient evidence; requires a lot of additional evidence	3b- Insufficient scientific reasoning; requires major revision
A5- Address System-Mediated Patient Safety in Community Pharmacies to Improve Health	3b- Insufficient evidence; requires a lot of additional evidence	3b- Insufficient scientific reasoning; requires major revision
B1- A Call to End Shackling During Healthcare	3b- Insufficient evidence; requires a lot of additional evidence	3b- Insufficient scientific reasoning; requires major revision
B2- Protecting Health and Well-being of People Living Unsheltered by Stopping Forcible Displacement (Sweeps) of Encampments	3a- Insufficient evidence; requires minimal additional evidence	2- Sufficient scientific reasoning
B3- Cooperation in Healthcare and Public Health as a Bridge to Positive Peace Between Israel and Palestine	3b- Insufficient evidence; requires a lot of additional evidence	3b- Insufficient scientific reasoning; requires major revision
B4- Respecting the Right to Health Through Humane International Sanctions	3b- Insufficient evidence; requires a lot of additional evidence	3b- Insufficient scientific reasoning; requires major revision
C1- Falls Prevention in Adults Aged 65 and Over: A Call for Increased Use of an Evidence-Based Falls Prevention Algorithm	3b- Insufficient evidence; requires a lot of additional evidence	3b- Insufficient scientific reasoning; requires major revision
C2- Preventing Exposure to Dental Amalgam in High-Risk Populations	3b- Insufficient evidence; requires a lot of additional evidence	3b- Insufficient scientific reasoning; requires major revision

C3- Youth Access to PrEP: A Public Health Approach to Increase Access to Care and Reduce HIV Incidence and Health Disparities	3b- Insufficient evidence; requires a lot of additional evidence	3b- Insufficient scientific reasoning; requires major revision
C4- Actions to Incorporate Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Healthcare Practices into Primary Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Policies	3b- Insufficient evidence; requires a lot of additional evidence	3b- Insufficient scientific reasoning; requires major revision

Throughout the year, the Science Board also met, as needed, as one of three committees, Joint Policy Committee, Annual Meeting Scientific Session, and Archiving Review.

Joint Policy Committee (JPC)

Four Science Board representatives served on the Joint Policy Committee. Dr. Apryl Brown served as co-chair of the JPC and Dr. Kevin Sykes, Dr. Barbara Giloth and Dr. Ben King served as the additional three representatives of the Science Board on JPC. Science Board representatives on the JPC appropriately participated in JPC functions and meetings.

2023 Sponsored Scientific Session

The Science Board planned and will host scientific session 4273.0 entitled “Public Health in Criminal Justice-Involved Persons through Decarceration and Abolition” on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 from 4:30-6:00PM ET.

Drawing on the expertise of leaders from across the country, this panel session will help provide attendees with the historical context, evidence, and language to advocate for public health promotion in the criminal justice system, examining question such as: What evidence, if any, exists for criminal justice reform? What do terms like decarceration and abolition mean to supporters and detractors? What should the public health priorities be for criminal justice-involved persons and their families? What are the public health consequences for communities who sit on the front lines of mass incarceration?

The session will be moderated by Kevin Sykes, PhD, MPH and Cheryl Conner, MD, MPH and will feature Omid Bagheri Garanki, MPH, Faculty, University of Washington, School of Public Health; Jason Glenn, PhD, Associate Professor, University of Kansas Medical Center; and Mark Spencer, MD, Assistant Professor, Emory University at Grady General Internal Medicine.

Archiving Review

There are 22 policy statements adopted in 2003, and 1 policy statement adopted in 2002 and kept active for an additional year in 2022, scheduled for archiving at the close of the 2023 Annual Meeting (see list below).

#	Title
20031	<u>Supporting Legislation for Independent Post-Marketing (Phase IV) Comparative Evaluation of Pharmaceuticals</u>
20032	<u>The Impact of a Public Health Nursing Shortage of the Nation’s Public Health Infrastructure</u>
20033	<u>The Importance of Prevention Efforts with HIV-Positive Individuals Receiving Clinical Care</u>
20034	<u>Protecting Essential Public Health Functions Amidst State Economic Downturns</u>
20035	<u>Including the Supportive Housing Residential Population in National Surveys</u>
20036	<u>Ensuring the Scientific Credibility of Government Public Health Advisory Committees</u>
20038	<u>Supporting a Nationwide Environmental Health Tracking Network to Identify Links Between the Environment and Human Health</u>
20039	<u>Worker’s Compensation Insurance- Increased Funding for Prevention of Occupational Disease and Injury</u>
200310	<u>Smoking Cessation with Substance Abuse and/or Mental Health Treatment Services</u>
200312	<u>Increasing Access to Vision Rehabilitation</u>
200313	<u>Preserving Access to Reproductive Health Care in Medicaid Managed Care</u>
200314	<u>Support for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the United States and Abroad</u>
200315	<u>Support of Public Education about Emergency Contraception and Reduction or Elimination of Barriers to Access</u>
200316	<u>Providing Access to Emergency Contraception for Survivors of Sexual Assault</u>
200317	<u>Food Marketing and Advertising Directed at Children and Adolescents: Implications for Overweight</u>
200318	<u>Safe Motherhood in the United States: Reducing Maternal Morbidity and Mortality</u>
200319	<u>Support for WIC and Child Nutrition Programs</u>
200320	<u>Support Renewal with Strengthening of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban</u>

200321	Supporting Actions to Reduce the Risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) in Out-of-Home Child Care Settings
200322	Supporting Increased U.S. Investment in Bilateral and Multilateral Programs to Address the Epidemics of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
200323	Strengthening the Fiscal Viability and Independence of Public Health While Responding to Terrorism
200324	Opposition to United States Plans for New Nuclear Weapons Development and Pre-emptive War
20023	Support of Healthy Aging through the Promotion and Prevention of Disease and Injury

APHA members were asked to review these policy statements and consider three potential options for each policy statement of interest:

1. Allow the policy statement to remain on the archiving consent agenda
2. Update a policy statement scheduled for archiving
3. Request to keep active a policy statement proposed for archiving

The Science Board received one completed request to keep active Policy Statement 200319, Support for WIC and Child Nutrition Programs.

The Board will meet on November 12, 2023 for a business meeting during the APHA Annual Meeting and Expo. At this time, it will finalize its recommendation regarding the archiving of Policy Statement 200319. This recommendation will then be forwarded to the JPC who will provide the Governing Council the recommendation in its report issued on the evening of November 12th.

In addition, the Science Board has recommended to the JPC changes to the archiving review criteria to assess whether the science and action steps remain accurate and feasible and applicable, rather than current. This update, along with additional changes to the Guidelines for the Preparation, Submission, Review, Revision, Consideration, and Adoption of Proposed Policy Statements, will be proposed by the JPC for Governing Council approval during Session II of the Governing Council meeting on November 14, 2023.

Ex Officio Representation on Executive Board

The Chair of the Science Board served as an Ex Officio member of the Executive Board, as outlined in the APHA bylaws. She represented the Board on the Committee on Social Responsibility.

Respectfully submitted,

Apryl Brown, MD, MPH
2022-2023 Chair, Science Board

Kevin Sykes, PhD, MPH
2022-2023 Vice-Chair, Science Board