



# 2024 Intersectional Council Annual Report

## Council Role and Responsibilities

The Intersectional Council (ISC) is composed of the Chairs, Chair- Elects, and Immediate Past Chairs of all Sections. The ISC represents the interests common to the APHA Sections, Forums and Topical Groups. The ISC facilitates relations between and among these groups and with APHA Committees, Affiliates and Caucuses.

The Intersectional Council Steering Committee (ISC-SC) conducts ISC activities between the Annual Meetings. The fourteen members consist of nine members elected by the ISC, the ISC--SC Immediate Past Chair, the Student Assembly Chair--Elect and one member appointed by the Executive Board every three years, plus the Council of Affiliates Chair-Elect and the Caucus Collaborative Chair. The ISC--SC has a virtual midyear meeting, a meeting at the Annual Meeting, plus monthly Zoom meetings.

The Steering Committee assists Sections with internal management and communication. The ISC--SC:

- Reviews and comments on applications for Sections, Special Interest Groups (SPIGs) and Forums and submits comments to the Executive Board/Governing Council.
- Works within the framework of the APHA Strategic Plan by identifying specific goals and objectives which best fit the purpose of the ISC then develops an annual work plan.
- Functions as a proactive body on issues of concern to the Sections.
- Communicates association matters to the Sections and fosters responsible interchange among Section leadership as well as between Section leadership and other Association entities.
- Provides leadership development.

## Members

Padmini Murthy – Chair; Karl Cooper – Chair-Elect; Sandy-Asari Hogan – Immediate Past Chair and Secretary

Members: Alina Cernasev; Paul Gilbert; Ebony Johnson; Jeanette Kowalik; Robin Kimbrough-Melton; Carissa Smock; Whitney Witt; Kevin Borrup- Executive Board Appointee; Kara Suvada – Student Assembly Liaison; Kelechi Ibe-Lamberts – Caucus Collaborative Representative; Rebecca Nevedale – Council of Affiliates Representative

## Staff

Fran Atkinson - Deputy Director of Membership Services; Elsa Greer - Member Unit Program Manager; Sebastian Padrino - Member Engagement Specialist; Caelan Murphy - Member Unit Temporary Assistant

## ISC SC Meetings

ISC Steering Committee meetings were held monthly. The focus this year was educating all APHA leaders on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility issues. The Steering Committee also worked with staff on the roll out of the Leadership Guidelines. In addition, the ISC SC met with the Council of Affiliates for their joint midyear meeting in June.

## Intersectional Council Topical Groups

One of the APHA strategic plan objectives is to increase collaboration across the member groups. In an effort to facilitate this collaboration, the ISC--SC has aided in the development and management of several topical groups. These collaborative groups work on issues that traverse multiple Sections and engages (members from multiple member units. The topical groups receive the following benefits: an ISC scientific session, a webinar, APHA LEAD online communities for leaders and members to communicate and an ISC--SC liaison. The current list of ISC--SC Topical Groups is as follows:

- **Climate Change**

ISC SC Liaisons: Jeanette Kowalik  
Organizers: Raquel Silva, Matthew Weinburke

- **Opioids**

ISC SC Liaison: Alina Cernasev  
Organizers: Beth Sommers

- **Gun Violence Prevention**

ISC SC Liaison: Robin Kimbrough-Melton, Alina Cernasev  
Organizers: Judith Katzburg

- **Rural Health**

ISC SC Liaisons: Paul Gilbert  
Organizers: Cody Mullen, Barbara Levin, Kathleen Carol Thomas, Meg Ann Perry Traci

- **Suicide Prevention**

ISC SC Liaison: Robin Kimbrough-Melton  
Organizers: Kerri Nickerson, Kristen Quinlan

- **Disasters and Emergency Preparedness**

ISC SC Liaisons: Kevin Borrup  
Organizers: Cole Ettingoff, Lauren Pierpoint

## Summary of 2024 ISC Activities

### Trainings

#### *DEIA Trainings*

This year the ISC DEIA subcommittee developed a number of training sessions, not only for the Section Chairs, Chairs-Elect and the Immediate Past Chair, but all APHA leaders. The subcommittee agreed that to ensure that each member group creates an atmosphere of belonging, all leaders should attend the trainings.

The subcommittee was disappointed in the turnout for the webinar training but delighted that the workshop held in person at the APHA Affiliate President-Elect and Section Chair-Elect meeting was a huge success. At this time, the Steering Committee members are hopeful that more leaders will attend the in-person workshop at the Annual Meeting.

- June – Responding to microaggressions (webinar)
- June – Ableism, Disability Justice and Accessibility (webinar)
- July – Cultural Humility (in-person Affiliate President-Elect and Section Chair-Elect training)
- August – Multigenerational Communication Bias (webinar)
- October – Cultural Humility (in-person -all leaders)
- Future – writing DEIA chapter for leadership guidelines

### *APHA Affiliate President-Elect and Section Chair-Elect Training*

In addition, the ISC and Council on Affiliates (CoA) collaborated developing the agenda for the Chair -Elect/President- Elect Training. The in-person training was held in July and was one of the most successful trainings to date. The cohort of leaders were able to network and form new relationships between Sections and Affiliates.

### *Advocacy Trainings*

In July, both Section and Affiliate leaders were invited to an advocacy training to prepare them for the Speak for Health Campaign, which runs during the time in which congressional representatives are back in their home state for the summer recess. The training covered APHA advocacy priorities, questions at town halls and how to write an op-ed supporting public health policies.

### *Leadership Guidelines*

This year, the ISC finalized a standardized leadership handbook. It was shared at the Chair-Elect meeting and with all the APHA leaders. Staff has scheduled multiple webinars, one before the Annual Meeting and one at the beginning of the new year, to provide an overview of the handbook to all APHA leaders.

### *CoA/ISC Candidates' Forum*

The virtual CoA/ISC APHA Candidates Forum is scheduled for Tuesday, October 15, 4:00-7:00 PM (ET). This forum provides Governing Councilors an opportunity to interact with and ask questions of the candidates for President-Elect and the Executive Board in small groups. Similar to last year, the forum will take place over Zoom. Candidates will make 2-minute self-introductions and then will be placed in a Zoom breakout rooms with a small group of participants to chat and answer questions from the attendees. After 10 minutes, the candidate will move to another breakout room, and the participants will remain in the same breakout room. After all the candidates have visited each room, all participants will return to the main session. Each candidate will then have the opportunity to provide 2-minute closing

remarks.

## 2024 Member Unit Report

Every year, Sections, the Student Assembly and Forums are expected to submit a work plan at the beginning of the year and a member unit report prior to the Annual Meeting. The ISC--SC uses these annual reports to:

- Better understand the needs of the member units
- Identify struggling member units in need of extra support
- Ensure member unit activities align with APHA's Strategic Plan
- Facilitate collaboration between member units

The 2024 Work Plan/Annual Report removed questions around APHA's previous strategic plan and kept the basic questions on membership engagement. All Sections completed their work plan and report, therefore no Section lost a scientific session for the 2025 Annual Meeting. We noticed a small decline in APHA leaders being a member of their Affiliate and the ISC will strongly encourage ISC members to join the state or local association.

There were many great accomplishments to report from the Sections. The following metrics from their submitted reports provide data where Sections are doing well and where they are facing some challenges. These data points will help guide the ISC-SC and staff to provide the necessary resources and guidance to support the Sections to continue leading the APHA's initiatives in their many respectful fields of expertise.

It should also be noted that the Membership Services department had a staff member on leave for most of the year, therefore it impacted the service provided to leaders. The ISC SC will be learning how to better support staff when there is a long-term absence in their ranks.

- **Scientific Sessions:** Based on the results of the Section reports the top five scientific session themes will include:
  - Equity (54%)
  - Social determinants of health (51%)
  - 2024 Theme: Rebuilding Trust in Public Health and Science (38%)
  - Access to Care (31%)
  - Quality of healthcare (18%)

In addition, 79% of the Member Units will organize over five scientific sessions for this year's meeting.

- **Recognition Awards:** The most common reported response by Sections (51%) was that 5-10 recognition awards were provided for best abstract, lifetime achievement, etc. to their members. This is a 13% increase from last year.

Recognition Awards	
None	8%
1	3%
2	18%
3	5%
4	5%
5-10 ( <i>error</i> )	51%
10-15 ( <i>error</i> )	8%
15 or more ( <i>error</i> )	3%

- **Scholarships:** Data was also collected for how many scholarships each Section provided for students and Early Career Professionals to attend the Annual Meeting. The number of scholarships declined slightly in 2024.

- **Student Scholarships**

Number of Sections/Student Assembly	Number of Scholarships 2024	Number of Scholarships 2023	Number of Scholarships 2022
Does not provide scholarships	15	16	16
1-5	16	16	14
6-10	3	4	3
11-15	0	1	3
16-20	1	1	1

**Early Career Professional Scholarships**

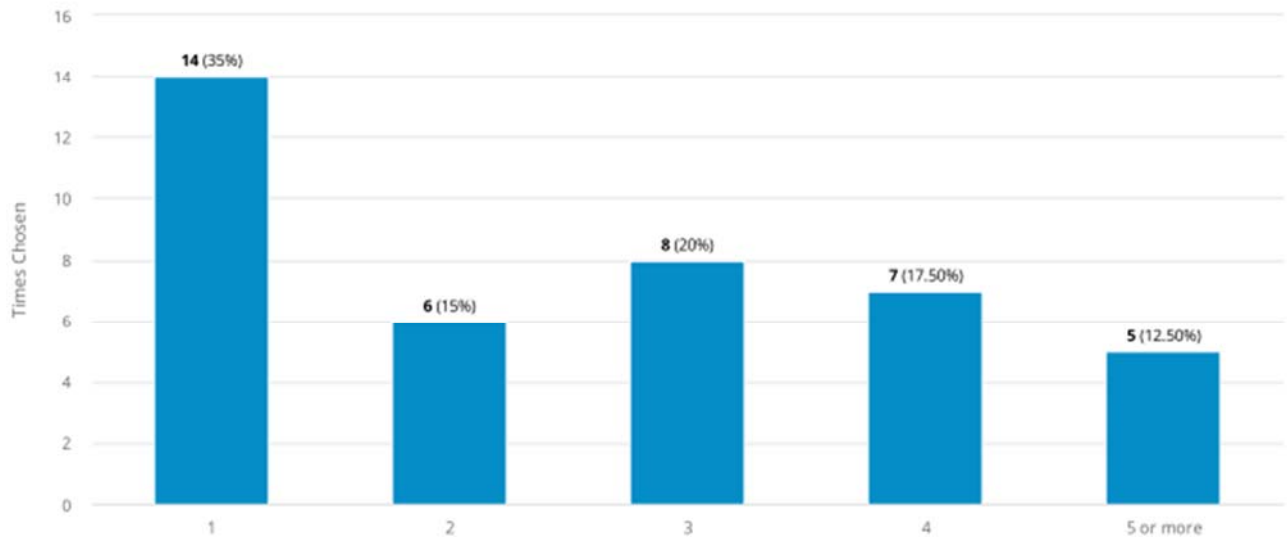
Number of Sections/Student Assembly	Number of Scholarships 2024	Number of Scholarships 2023	Number of Scholarships 2022
Does not provide scholarships	27	29	25
1	3	5	5
2	3	--	6
3	-	2	--
4	1	3	1

5	1		
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- **Webinars:** This year the ISC- SC was happy to see that encouraging Member Units to organize field-oriented webinars this year (not including business meetings) paid off. The number of Sections that had three webinars in the year increased from 8% to 21% and those that had four webinars went from 10% to 18% this year.

**9. How many webinars on the Section’s field did you organize? (don’t include business meetings)**

Number of responses: 40



The three most covered areas included Equity (46%), Access to Care (31%), and Social Determinants of Health (36%)

- **Mentoring Activities:** Staff currently sees a disconnect between Section mentoring programs and using LEAD’s Mentor Match. Plus, APHA has more mentees than mentors. In 2025, the Membership Department hopes to better educate the Mentoring Chairs and help them streamline their mentoring program through Mentor Match. The department will also reach out to APHA retired and emeritus members to increase the number of mentors.
- **Policy Activities:** The most reported policy activity was reviewing/archiving APHA policies (82%). Sections also reported advocating for a current APHA policy at the local, state, or federal level (41%) and submitting a policy to the Joint Policy Committee (20%).
- **Traditional Partner Engagements**

- Seven Sections reported working with 5 APHA Affiliates and 9 Sections collaborated with 7 APHA Caucuses.
  - Over fourteen government agencies/health departments/universities were engaged by the Sections including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and several state health departments.
  - Seventeen Sections worked closely with nonprofits and foundations (Center for Black Maternal Health and Reproductive Justice, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Alcohol Action Network, etc.)
- **Advocacy Priorities:** The three highest priorities were increasing and protecting funding for vital public health agencies (33%), advancing racial equity (43%) and addressing the health impacts of climate change (33%).
  - **Advocacy Activities:** Unfortunately, advocacy efforts dropped across the board in 2024.

Activities	2024	2023
Promoted Action Alerts (mandatory for Action Reps.)	28%	44%
Promoted Speak for Health campaign	36%	41%
Encouraged leadership to participate in advocacy tutorial webinar	36%	36%
Partnered with other groups to advocate an APHA priority	31%	44%
None. Maybe next year.	18%	13%
Other	13%	10%

- **Increase Retention and Recruitment of Members:**

	2024	2023
Launched one membership retention effort	48%	41%
Sent at least three messages each month on the online community	43%	43%
Executed one membership recruitment campaign	31%	31%
Welcomed new members each month	28%	21%
Sent a “Happy New Year” message to all members between Jan. 1-7	18%	38%
Checked-in with new members after 6-months	15%	15%
Sent a “thank you” message to renewing members	0	15%

- **Prioritization of Section Elections:**

Activities	2024	2023
Promoted vacant and upcoming volunteer positions throughout the year	87%	90%
Adhered to election timeline	82%	90%
Contacted staff if elected/appointed officer resigned from position	54%	69%
Prepared a competitive/diverse slate of candidates	69%	67%
Reached out to leaders that did not renew their membership	51%	56%

- **Annual Meeting Business Meetings:** Over the last two years, APHA staff have encouraged Sections to have virtual meetings and member orientations prior to the Annual Meeting. Sections have cut down their in-person business meetings and used the time to greet new members and address the most pertinent issues. At this time, nearly 60% have only one business meeting.
- **Member Unit Business Meetings (Webinars)**

Number of webinar business meetings (including subcommittees)	2024	2023
1-4	21%	15%
4-6	15%	8%
6-8	5%	10%
8-10	13%	26%
10 or more	46%	41%

- **Leadership Orientation:** Less Sections reported organizing leadership orientations this year. The numbers dropped from 59% to 41%.
- **Other Leadership Development Activities:** Most (64%) did not sponsor other leadership activities.
- **Membership Engagement:** Most Sections reported organizing social events for this year’s Annual Meeting (87%), soliciting feedback from members (67%), and utilizing Section student liaisons to communicate with student members (59%). Other reported activities included presenting one or more webinars for students and early career professionals (33%) – which was unfortunately 18% down from last year.
- **Component Collaborations:** Most Sections organized and co-sponsored scientific presentations at the Annual Meeting (85%) or convened joint webinars and other educational activities for members



(51%). These levels of engagement show how well the ISC has fostered collaborations between components. Other activities included jointly developing policies (20%), plus organizing, and supporting joint working groups or committees (31%).

- **Affiliate Collaborations:** The most reported collaboration with state or local affiliates was organizing scientific presentations at the Annual Meeting (39%) and organizing National Public Health Week joint activities (18%), which increased ten percent.
- **Needs from ISC: The top needs indicated by Sections is guidance** on how to raise money and increase their Section’s endowment (56%) and support, recruiting new members (47%) and developing leadership among members (47%). It is also important to note that there was a 6% jump in the need to support Component leaders.

Technical assistance needed	2024	2023	Difference
<b>Raise money and increase Section endowment</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>6%</b>
Develop leadership among members	47%	44%	3%
Recruit new members	47%	50%	-3%
Improve member communication	28%	19%	-17%
Engage early career professionals	28%	36%	-12%
Improve impact of policy	14%	33%	-19%
Recruit and retain a more diverse group of members	31%	28%	3%
Engage student members	33%	39%	-6%
Learn about and connect with other Sections interested in similar activities	17%	28%	-11%
Engage retired members	31%	31%	0%
Implement a sustainable business model	25%	28%	-3%
Engage members in making an impact in advocacy	17%	14%	3%
Use strategic communication to frame issues	14%	19%	-5%
<b>Support Component leaders</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>6%</b>
Build and sustain effective partnerships/alliances	25%	28%	-3%
Measure progress toward goals	17%	19%	-2%
Other	8%	11%	-3%