



2022 InterSectional Council Annual Report

Council Role and Responsibilities

The InterSectional Council (ISC) is comprised 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 and facilitates relations between and among them and with APHA Committees, Affiliates and Caucuses.

The InterSectional Council Steering Committee has nine members and conducts ISC activities between the Annual Meetings. The 14 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 meets face-to-face twice a year, and via Zoom monthly.

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

- Reviews and comments on applications for Sections, 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

Thomas Doker – Chair; Sandy-Asari Hogan – Chair-Elect; Rachael Reed – Immediate Past Chair; Open – Secretary; Ann Dozier; Julie Gast; Ashley Wennerstrom; Linda Frazier; Whitney Witt; Mary Jane Alexander; Padmini Murthy; Prasad Vinjamury – Executive Board Appointee; Lauren Joyce – Student Assembly Liaison; Juanita Booker-Vaughns – Caucus Collaborative Representative; Sarah Rimes – Council of Affiliates Representative

Staff

Fran Atkinson, Elsa Greer, Sebastian Padrino

ISC SC Meetings

ISC Steering Committee meetings were held monthly. With all the business to discuss including APHA Your Way committee updates and planning for APHA's 150th Anniversary, the ISC-SC Meetings were extended to 1½ hours. 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: Thomas Doker

Organizers: Tenaya Jackson, Charles Cange

- **Opioids**

ISC SC Liaison: Linda Frazier

Organizers: Linda Frazier, Beth Sommers

- **Gun Violence Prevention**

ISC SC Liaison: Rachael Reed

Organizers: Judith Katzburg, Linda Degutis

- **Rural Health**

ISC SC Liaisons: Sandy-Asari Hogan and Linda Frazier

Organizers: Cody Mullen, Barbara Levin, Kathleen Carol Thomas, Meg Ann Perry Traci

- **Suicide Prevention**

ISC SC Liaison: Mary Jane Alexander
Organizers: Jerry Reed, Kristen Quinlan

- **Disasters and Emergency Preparedness**

ISC SC Liaisons: Thomas Doker

Organizers: Peggy Keller, Mary Masters, Kandra Strauss-Riggs, Kimberly Shoaf

Summary of 2022 Activities

Bi-Monthly Full ISC Meetings

In addition to the monthly ISC-SC meetings, the ISC-SC held bi-monthly full ISC meetings. Each meeting had a specific focus of interest to the Section leaders and a special guest. Each meeting also included a Chair and Staff update to keep the Section leaders up to date on APHA business. The webinars were very successful and there were over 30 leaders on each call. This year's meeting schedule was as follows:

- February – Prioritizing Accessibility and Disability Inclusion (Disability Section)
- June – Climate Change Topical Group Collaboration

- August – Committee on Social Responsibility and EB Development Committee (Ann Dozier and Bryan Buckley)
- October/November – Cultural Humility (DEI)

Trainings

The Member Unit staff worked closely with the ISC SC to develop trainings that would occur in the months in which there was no bi-monthly ISC meeting. Depending on the topic, other leaders (treasurers, communication chairs, nomination chairs, etc.) were invited to the trainings. They included Speak for Health, Introduction to Membership Services, Section Budget 101, Fundraising, APHA Communications, and Moving Forward.

In addition, the ISC and Council on Affiliates (CoA) collaborated on the annual 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 can now continue their dialogue on APHA LEAD and will meet again at the Annual Meeting to discuss future collaborative efforts (rural health, reproductive health, etc.) It's important to mention that the Section Chair-Elects were provided a list of tasks to assist them with the transition to Section Chair- as this was a previous concern of the leaders.

APHA Your Way

This Initiative began with a recommendation from the ISC and so we follow it closely. The ISC-SC brainstormed ways to address the recommendations that pertained to their role:

- Creating a transfer of institutional knowledge between incoming and outgoing leaders
- Providing more targeted leadership training
- Educating members about Section leadership

The ISC-SC decided that one of the best ways to address most of these recommendations would be to create a standard of practice for the Sections as well as a standardized handbook. By creating a standardized Section Handbook, the ISC-SC can make the job of Section Chair more manageable and improve Members' APHA experience through cross-Sectional consistency. The Handbook would include APHA Bylaws on Sections and Code of Conduct. Sections will be able to document their unique structures and operational procedures and will be required to review and update the handbook annually. APHA staff and the ISC-SC Chair will be provided a copy of the full handbook annually which will include the standardized practices as well as all of the Sections' unique practices. Initial work has started on the standardized handbook, led by the consulting group, Brighter Strategies and Fran Atkinson. Initially, it was slated to be completed this year but due to the increased workload with other prioritized APHA Your Way initiatives and preparing for APHA's 150th Anniversary the handbook will be completed by 2023 and implement it by 2024.

ISC/CoA Candidates' Forum

The virtual CoA/ISC APHA Candidates Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, 6:30-9pm EST. This forum provides Governing Councilors an opportunity to interact with and ask questions of the Candidates for President-Elect, Treasurer, and the Executive Board in small groups. Similar to last year, the forum will take place over zoom. Candidates will make 1-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 8 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 to each room, all participants will return to the main session. Each candidate will then have the opportunity to provide 2-minute closing remarks.

SPIG Upgrade to a Section

The One Health SPIG met the membership requirement to apply to become a Section. The ISC-SC and the Executive Board voted in favor of the change. At the Mid-Year Governing Council meeting, the One Health SPIG was officially approved to become the One Health Section. At this time there are no more SPIGs, all are Sections.

2022 Member Unit Report

Every year, Sections, SPIGS and forums are expected to submit a work plan in 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

Fran Atkinson drafted a new Work Plan/Annual Report template this year that the Sections really appreciated; however, one Forum and two Sections failed to meet the deadline for submitting their annual reports (Genomics Forum, APHS Section, and HA Section). These Sections are at risk of losing a scientific session at the next meeting. Unfortunately, most of the respondents were not affiliate members (62.9%). Only 11 affiliates were represented by respondents.

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 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.

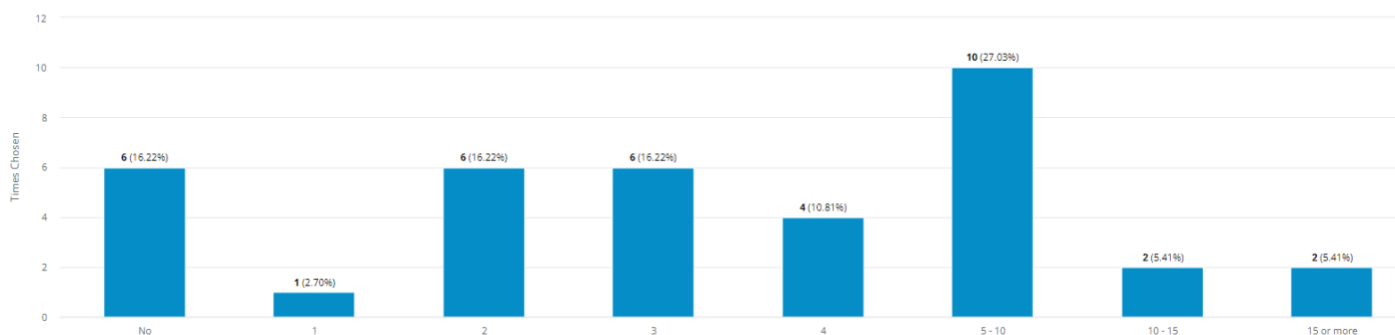
- **Scientific Sessions:** Based on the results of the Section reports the top five scientific session themes will include:
 - 2022 Theme: Leading the Path Towards Equity (51.1%)
 - Social determinants of health (43.2%)
 - Equity (37.8%)
 - Access to Care (29.7%)
 - Access to community-based resources (18.9%)

In addition, 83.78% of the Member units will organize over five scientific session for this year's meeting.

- **Recognition Awards:** The most common reported response by Sections (28.6%) was that 5-10 recognition awards were provided for best abstract, lifetime achievement, etc. to their members.

5. How many recognition awards for best abstract, lifetime achievement, etc. did your Section provide?

Number of responses: 37



- **Scholarships:** Data were also collected for how many scholarships each Section provided for students and Early Career Professionals to attend the Annual Meeting.

○ **Student Scholarships**

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

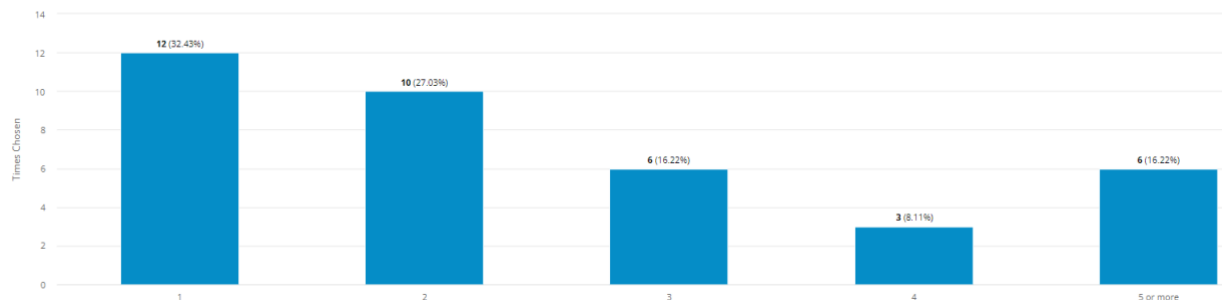
Early Career Professional Scholarships

Number of Sections/Student Assembly	Number of Scholarships
Does not provide scholarships	25
1	5
2	6
3	--
4	1

- **Webinars:** With Sections having their own Zoom room – we saw an increase in organizing field-oriented webinars this year (not including business meetings). Most coordinating one webinar (34.3%); 5 or more webinars (16.2%)

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

Number of responses: 37



Most webinars covered Equity and Social determinants of health (37.1%). A significant percentage of Sections reported covering the 2022 Theme and Access to community-based resources (28.7%).

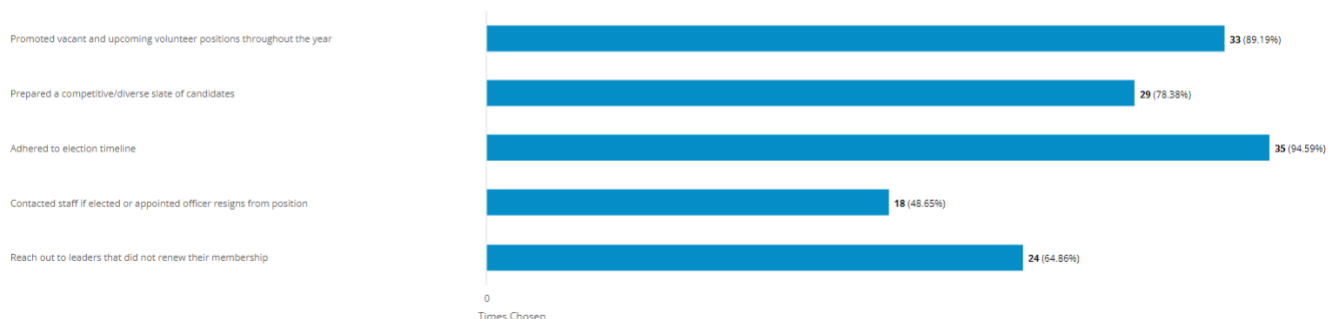
- **Mentoring Activities:** The most common mentoring activity reported by Sections was participation in the Student Assembly speed mentoring event (27.0%), as well as the planning to assist build and promote the new APHA mentoring database (16.2%), plus organizing a program in which members can shadow other members at the Annual Meeting (18.9%). Other reported mentoring activities included hosting a mentoring panel webinar, leadership role mentoring, surveying for member mentorship needs, mentoring other Sections on drafting APHA policy statements, hosting coffee hours, and providing a platform for student members to lead planning activities.
- **Policy Activities:** The most commonly reported policy activity was reviewing/archiving APHA policies (67.6%) Sections also reported Advocating for a current APHA policy at the local, state, or federal level (43.2%) and submitting a policy to the Joint Policy Committee (35.1%). Other reported policy activities included working with the International Network for Epidemiology in Policy, advocating support for the human milk feeding and lactation policy, reviewing external policy statements regarding the needs of people with disabilities, developing procedures for Section policy committees, providing expertise in response to the Tax & Trade Bureau report on alcohol, and surveying members to determine the policy topics of most interest.
- **Traditional and Non-traditional Partner Engagements**
 - Sections reported working with five APHA Affiliates and eleven APHA Caucuses.
 - Over 18 government agencies/health departments were engaged by the Sections including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities, the National Institutes of Health, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Transportation, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
 - Collaboration with over 45 non-profits and foundations included the Oregon Community Health Workers Association, MHP Salud, Juxtopia LLC, Faith Leaders Church Initiative, the National Consortium of African-American Children, the American Chiropractic Association, the Trade Justice Groups, WholeHealthED, U.S. Breastfeeding Committee, Reaching our Sisters Everywhere
- **Advocacy Priorities:** Most Sections reported a priority of Advancing racial equity (51.4%). The next three highest priorities were Increasing and protecting funding for vital public health agencies (35.1%), upholding critical public health laws and regulations and reversing damaging rollbacks

(35.1% each) and addressing the health impacts of climate change (32.4%). Other important priorities were upholding the Affordable Care Act and expanding access to health coverage and services (27.3%) and addressing the nation’s gun violence epidemic (18.9%).

- **Advocacy Activities:** Most Sections reported partnering with other groups to advocate APHA policies (64.9%) and promoting action alerts (48.7%). Other reported activities included promoting the Speak for Health campaign (40.5%) and encouraging leadership to participate in advocacy tutorial webinar (29.7%). In addition, Sections included promoting mental health, particularly suicide prevention, the new 988 number, and cross-Section grant collaborations to reach at-risk populations, working on an op-ed regarding support for the Future of Public Health, and providing trainings to people from community organizations, state affiliates, and state agencies regarding the Alcohol Action Network.
- **National Public Health Week (NPHW) Activities:** Sections have been especially supportive of NPHW with most promoting APHA activities (62.1%). Other activities included organizing webinars and promoting APHA policies (35.1%), writing blogs (8.11%), and submitting a newsletter article (5.4%). Additionally, Sections reported creating a video compilation of Community Health Workers, organizing experiential activities to promote health, hosting a social media campaign to disseminate compiled daily theme resources, marketing on social media, and promoting theme-related topics on Twitter.
- **Increase Retention and Recruitment of Members:** Most Sections reported executing at least one membership campaign (51.4%). Other reported efforts included launching membership retention efforts and sending at least three messages each month on the online communities (46.0 % each), sending “Happy New Year” messages to all members (28.6%), welcoming new members each month (45.7%), sending “thank you” messages to renewing members (27%), and checking in with new members after six months (10.8%). Additionally, Sections reported reaching out to lapsed members, planning retention and recruitment activities for next year, adding member highlights to monthly newsletters, donating funds for student member sponsorships, developing recruitment videos, and advocating for APHA at other meetings.
- **Prioritization of Section Elections:** Sections really worked hard to encourage building of effective leadership teams.

16. What did you do to prioritize Section Elections - Mandatory (choose all that apply)

Number of responses: 37

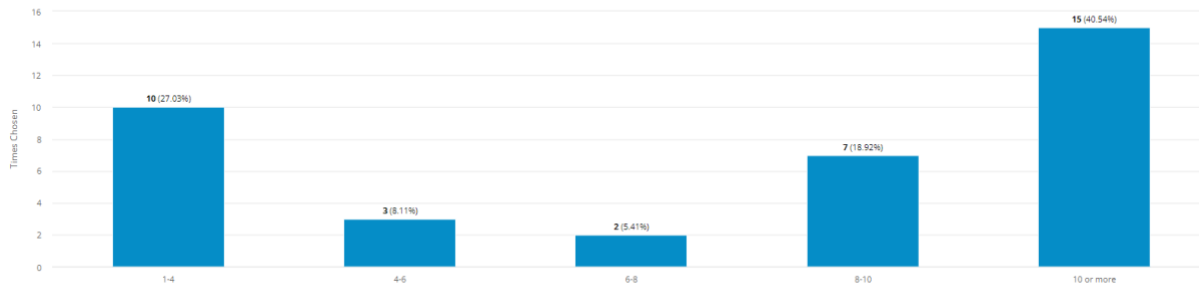


- **Annual Meeting Business Meetings:** The most reported answer was that Sections were going to support a single business meeting (48.6%); 29.7% were hosting two meetings, 13.5% three meetings, and 8.1% four or more meetings.
- **Section Meetings (Webinars):** The most reported number of meetings show that Sections were very

engaged by holding ten or more meetings this year (40.5%).

18. How many business meetings/webinars did the Section have throughout the year?

Number of responses: 37



- **Transition of Leadership:** Most Sections facilitated Chair-Elects moving to Chair positions (78.4%). However, those which did not report facilitating leadership transitions this year said that the reason was because they were still in the first years of two-year terms and thus not applicable this year.
- **Leadership Orientation:** Most (60%) Sections reported organizing leadership orientations.
- **Other Leadership Development Activities:** Most (51.4%) did not sponsor other leadership activities but of those that did, the following great ideas were reported: Bi-weekly leadership meetings, monthly committee meeting participation, attending APHA Chair-Elect meeting in Washington, DC, mid-year meeting participation, drafting own Section handbook, and developing standard operating procedures.
- **Membership Engagement:** Most Sections reported organizing social events for this year's Annual Meeting (83.8%), soliciting feedback from members (64.9%), and utilizing Section student liaisons to communicate with student members (59.5%). Other reported activities included presenting one or more webinars for students and early career professionals (51.4%)
- **Component Collaborations:** Most Sections organized and co-sponsored scientific presentations at the Annual Meeting (75.7%) or convened joint webinars and other educational activities for members (56.8%). These levels of engagement show how well the ISC has fostered collaborations between components. Other activities included jointly developing policies (40.5%), organizing and supporting joint working groups or committees (35.1%), organizing joint social activities at the Annual Meeting or at other times last year (20%), and creating fact sheet with other components (2.7%).
- **Affiliate Collaborations:** The most reported collaboration with state or local affiliates was organizing scientific presentations at the Annual Meeting (30.4%). Other reported collaborations included jointly developing policies (17.4%), organizing National Public Health Week joint activities (8.7%), and creating fact sheets (4.4%) and organizing joint "Speak for Health" activities (4.4%). Additional reported collaborations included being very active in state affiliates, encouraging members to join affiliates, and organizing sessions at state affiliate conferences.

- **Needs from ISC: The top need of the Sections is guidance** on how to raise money and increase their Section's endowment (63.9%).

Technical assistance needed	Percentage
Raise money and increase Section endowment	63.9%
Develop leadership among members	44.4%
Recruit new members	36.1%
Improve member communication	36.1%
Engage early career professionals	33.3%
Improve impact of policy	33.3%
Recruit and retain a more diverse group of members	33.3%
Engage student members	25.0%
Learn about and connect with other Sections interested in similar activities	22.2%
Engage retired members	19.4%
Implement a sustainable business model	16.7%
Engage members in making an impact in advocacy	16.7%
Use strategic communication to frame issues	16.7%
Support Component leaders	13.9%
Build and sustain effective partnerships/alliances	11.1%
Measure progress toward goals	11.1%
Other	11.1%

- **Other Comments:** Other comments were in relation to strengthening relationships with the ISC, getting monthly membership reports, more time to complete reports, burnout, how much better LEAD is over CONNECT, increasing component collaborations, networking, project management tools to manage timelines, lack of leadership transition, as well as kudos to the APHA Staff!

SPECIAL KUDOS TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEER LEADERS AND TO THE APHA STAFF MEMBERS WHO SUPPORT ALL OF OUR AMAZING WORK!