

2025/2026 Policy Brief Priority Areas

These priority areas represent critical gaps in the Association's Policy Briefs and/or emerging policies within public health.

- 1) Importance of vaccines in preventing disease morbidity and mortality**
 - a. Emphasis on known safety and efficacy of vaccines, with acknowledgement of the barriers to access and misinformation that reduces uptake
- 2) Chronic disease prevention**
- 3) Preventing disordered substance use and ensuring availability and accessibility of a range of treatments and preventing drug-use related morbidity and mortality**
 - a. Requested emphasis is on drug misuse, but connection to alcohol and tobacco misuse can be made
- 4) Broad gun violence prevention to include-expanded background checks, reinstating assault weapons ban, funding for gun violence prevention research, red flag law and other public health measures**
 - a. Update archived policy statement 9818 adjusting to include evolution of societal changes and technology innovations).
- 5) Evidence informed strategies to reduce health inequities including diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility (DEIA)**

Given their priority to the Association, these proposed Policy Briefs have a fast-track option for adoption. They may be submitted for consideration at the Mid-Year Meeting or Annual Meetings of the Governing Council or to the Executive Board for adoption between meetings of the Governing Council. A maximum of five (5) proposed Policy Briefs can be developed annually through the fast-track option. In addition to following the proposed policy brief authorship guidelines, to be considered for the fast-track priority option, author teams must do the following:

- The lead author must complete an online training on writing a proposed policy brief and affirm the completion of this task.
- They will work with the Evidentiary Review Committee and APHA staff members to identify key literature on priority topics.
- They will work with policy chairs' working groups to help connect member units/expand collaborative writing groups.

Policy Briefs on these topics may also be considered in the regular review cycle should the criteria for fast-tracking not be met or fast-tracking not be desired by the authors.

The development and review timeline with deadlines for both the regular and fast-tracked 2025/2026 cycle are available at <https://www.apha.org/policy-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-briefs/policy-brief-development-process>