

## Final Committee Objectives 2024-25

### Public Health Committee

Chair: William Weber, MD, MPH, FACEP

Vice Chair: Wendy Macias-Konstantopoulos, MD, MPH, MBA, FACEP

Board Liaison: Ryan A, Stanton, MD, FACEP

Staff Liaison: Sam Shahid, MBBS, MPH

1. Continue to develop smart phases for common public health concerns.
2. Solicit nominations for the 2025 Public Health Trailblazer Award and recommend a recipient to the Board of Directors.
3. Provide subject matter expertise to support initiatives within ACEP related to women's health, access to reproductive services, and complications related to unsafe abortions.
4. Collaborate with the Ethics Committee to develop a Policy Resource & Education Paper (PREP) as an adjunct to the policy statement "Impact of Climate Change on Public Health and Implications for Emergency Medicine" and include information about the ethical issue and duty of emergency physicians to respond as stewards of the environment that supports the health of patients. (Public Health is the lead committee.)
5. Serve as a resource to the Pediatric Emergency Medicine Committee in their objective to develop resources to address the role of social determinants of health in pediatric patients presenting to the ED. (Pediatric Emergency Medicine is the lead committee.)
6. Develop resources (such as handouts) for patients on:
  - Gun safety – include strategies to address Amended Resolution 61(24) Safe Storage of Firearms. Seek input from other committees and sections as needed. [added February 2025]  
RESOLVED, That ACEP create education to raise awareness that secure gun storage, (storing guns locked, unloaded and separate from ammunition) can save lives, can prevent theft, and can prevent access by unauthorized users who may pose a danger to themselves or others; and be it further  
RESOLVED, That ACEP encourage emergency physicians and/or departments to function as messengers to patients about safe gun storage.
  - Safe medications storage
  - Xylazine
7. Provide subject matter expertise and support the Epidemic Expert Panel.
8. Review the following policies per the Policy Sunset Review Process:
  - Autonomous Self-Driving Vehicles
  - Domestic Family Violence
  - Medical Cannabis
  - Reporting of Vaccine Related Adverse Events
  - Violence-Free Society

*Determine by December 15 if the policies should be reaffirmed, revised, rescinded, or sunsetted. Submit any proposed revisions to the Board for approval by the end of the committee year.*
9. Serve as a resource to the Academic Affairs Committee in their objective to work with AAEP, ABEM, ACGME, CPE, and other stakeholders to develop and implement a plan to create the subspecialty pathway in emergency psychiatry. (Academic Affairs is the lead committee.)
10. Provide subject matter expertise to support initiatives within ACEP that address boarding and staffing as a quality and patient safety issue.
11. Complete revisions to the PREP "Social Work and Case Management in the ED."

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12. Review the “[Impact of Climate Change on Public Health and Implications for Emergency Medicine](#)” policy statement and determine if changes are needed, and if any information needs to be included in the PREP that is being developed as an adjunct to the policy statement, in response to Amended Resolution 45(24) Climate Change Research and Education in Emergency Medicine. [added February 2025]

RESOLVED, That ACEP encourage and support comprehensive research efforts on the health effects of climate change and the pivotal role of emergency medicine in mitigating and responding to these effects; and be it further

RESOLVED, That ACEP call for and promote initiatives to facilitate data collection on climate-related health emergencies, such as heat-related illnesses, vector-borne diseases, and extreme weather events, to inform evidence-based interventions, strengthen disaster preparedness, and enhance the capacity to respond effectively to climate change-induced health challenges; and be it further

RESOLVED, That ACEP support the introduction of curricula that address climate change in medical schools and residency programs.

13. Develop the training materials and work with ACEP’s Education staff on courses and materials to include at Scientific Assembly in response to Amended Resolution 46(24) Human Trafficking Training for All Emergency Medicine Residents. Utilize ACEP Anytime to disseminate courses and training materials. [added February 2025]

RESOLVED, That ACEP develop training presentations and resources for identification of human trafficking that can be used at all institutions and included at Scientific Assembly.

14. Revise the “Human Trafficking” policy statement in response to Resolution 47(24) Human Trafficking is a Public Health Crisis. [added February 2025]

RESOLVED, That ACEP declare human trafficking a public health crisis in the United States and revise ACEP’s policy statement on human trafficking.

15. Review the “Screening for Disease Factors in the ED” policy statement and determine if the policy statement should be revised or if a new policy statement is needed to address the second resolved of Amended Resolution 54(24) Mandated Public Health Screening. [added February 2025]

RESOLVED, That ACEP work with relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to departments of health, accreditation bodies, and hospital systems, to prioritize the acute care and evaluation of emergent patients and not require routine unrelated screenings in the emergency department without adequate resources, funding and supports; and be it further

RESOLVED, That ACEP develop a policy statement noting that mandating the emergency department to offer public health disease screening and behavioral health screening outside of the reason for the acute visit in the emergency department, without adequate resources, funding and supports, has unintended consequences on workflow and care of emergency department patients.

16. Collaborate with the Emergency Medicine Practice Committee and the Medical-Legal Committee to address Substitute Resolution 56(24) Patient and Visitor Code of Conduct. (Public Health is the lead committee.) [added February 2025]

RESOLVED, That ACEP create and implement a concise, universal code of patient and visitor conduct for emergency departments, featuring prominently displayed signage that clearly defines acceptable behavior and states that non-medical aggression may result in immediate removal.

17. Review existing resources and develop a policy statement with input from other stakeholders as identified in second resolved of Amended Resolution 58(24) Reducing Waste in Our Emergency Departments. [added February 2025]

RESOLVED, That ACEP encourage and support comprehensive research efforts to facilitate data collection of the measurements of emergency department waste and energy consumption; and be it further

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RESOLVED, That ACEP work with stakeholders, such as hospital administrations, to decrease energy consumption and decrease the amount of hospital waste such as general trash, unused disposables, true plastics, micro plastics, and non-recycled glass, as well as biohazard/medical waste.

18. Review existing resources and consider developing a policy statement to address the first and second resolveds of Resolution 59(24) Tap Water is Sufficient Treatment. [added February 2025]

RESOLVED, That ACEP advocate to transition to hospital tap water in the United States for wound irrigation to decrease the carbon footprint of emergency departments contributing to global efforts to combat climate change; and be further

RESOLVED, That ACEP emphasize the importance of research and education within the emergency medicine community, and to raise awareness of the financial and environmental benefits of tap water for wound irrigation in the United States highlighting its safety, efficacy, and potential for cost savings; and it further

RESOLVED, That ACEP urge policymakers and health care administrators to support initiatives that promote sustainable health care practices and to advocate for the adoption of tap water for wound irrigation in U.S. emergency settings, aligning with broader efforts to enhance environmental sustainability in health care.

19. Investigate available resources and enhance their availability to ACEP members in response to Amended Resolution 60(24) Lethal Means Firearm Counseling. Seek input from other committees and sections as needed. [added February 2025]

RESOLVED, That ACEP develop resources for ACEP members to provide evidence-based lethal means safety counseling to at risk youth; and be it further

RESOLVED, That ACEP work with other organizations to develop training for health care providers in lethal means safety training.