

# The American Public Health Association: Leading the Way to a Healthier World for 150 Years

The American Public Health Association was formed in 1872 under the leadership of Dr. Stephen Smith and several other notable public health stalwarts. The announced purpose of the Association was “the advancement of sanitary science and the promotion of organizations and measures for the practical application of public hygiene.” Members came from medicine, science, public health administration, government and social reform.

From its earliest days, the American Public Health Association has been committed to promoting public health through collection and analysis of reliable, population-based data, field and laboratory research, support of innovation in sanitary technology, training of public health professionals, public education and advocacy of health-relevant social and political reforms. During its long history, the American Public Health Association has tackled such major public health issues as the improvement of public and private hygiene; the dangers of poor housing; occupational hazards; acute infectious and chronic diseases;

adequate nutrition; food, drug and product safety; hazards in natural built environments; access to affordable high quality medical care; the professional, administrative and political barriers to equitable and effective public health initiatives; and the racial, gender and human rights challenges inherent in advancing the public’s health.

APHA grew into the organization it is today both by adhering to its core and persisting values and by adapting with new perspectives and initiatives to an ever-changing world. As the Association celebrates its 150th anniversary, it looks to the past with pride and to the future with hope and a renewed sense of commitment to creating not only the healthiest, but the most equitable nation.

This exhibit highlights APHA’s major achievements and milestones, its communities and its advocacy, policy and equity-enhancing successes.

#### Sources:

“APHA 100: The First Hundred Years” by Nancy Bernstein

APHA Timeline Poster: 1999/2000

APHA Website Timeline (<https://www.apha.org/About-APHA/Our-History>)

Executive Board Minutes, 1893-2021

Annual Meeting Programs

*Public Health: Reports and Papers of the American Public Health Association*

*American Journal of Public Health*

*The Nation’s Health*

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# 1870s: The Beginning of an Association



American Public Health Association

In 1872, the American Public Health Association was launched under the leadership of Dr. Stephen Smith, a physician and a commissioner of New York City's Board of Health. APHA's membership consisted of "persons connected with existing health organizations and citizens interested in sanitation." APHA's rise to

prominence was apparent in the enthusiastic and detailed responses it received to its request for information on local sanitary conditions. These responses allowed the Association to publish a report with statistics on water supplies, drainage and sewage, streets and public grounds, habitations, garbage and excreta and

slaughterhouses. An even clearer indication of the Association's status came during the campaign to create a National Health Board as a massive yellow fever epidemic threatened the country in 1878.

## 1872

The American Public Health Association is founded. Dues are \$5.

## 1873

APHA holds its first Annual Meeting in Cincinnati and publishes *Public Health: Reports and Papers of the American Public Health Association* the same year.

## 1873

Resolution promoting the creation of a National Sanitary Bureau.

## 1875

Develops systematic surveys to assess sanitary conditions in major cities.

## 1875

Resolution to petition Congress for a uniform national system of registry for deaths, marriages and births.

## 1877

Resolves that every medical school in the country should establish a chair for medicine and public health.

## 1879

The organization reaches nearly 600 members, including two women.

APHA sends a delegation to Havana which confirms the endemicity of yellow fever in Cuba.

## 1879

The National Board of Health is established under a bill promoted by the American Public Health Association.

# 1880s: Sanitation to Aid Public Health



Courtesy of the National Library of Medicine

At the 1882 Annual Meeting, APHA's president, Dr. R.C. Kedzie, asserted that "sanitary science includes everything that can prevent disease and, thus, promote the public health." This idea was behind the founding of the Association and continued to motivate its members. Commitment to eliminating

diseases caused by poor sanitation, such as cholera and typhus, prompted members to focus on improving water, housing, food and sewage safety. They continued efforts begun in the 1870s to conduct standardized comprehensive sanitary surveys of communities and neighborhoods.

## 1880

Pressures Congress for affirmative action on international public health matters.

## 1881

APHA reaches 700 members.

## 1881

Supports National Board of Health efforts to establish a national quarantine system.

## 1883

Appropriations for the National Board of Health are terminated.

## 1884

Canada is invited to join the Association.

## 1885

APHA establishes the Lomb Prize, the Association's first award.

## 1887

Women are invited to attend meetings.

# 1890s: Fighting Yellow Fever



Courtesy of the National Library of Medicine

The cause and prevention of yellow fever remained a concern for the American Public Health Association throughout the 1890s. Yellow fever outbreaks continued to result in a significant number of deaths, a trend that was particularly noticeable among the soldiers fighting in the Spanish-American War. Long thought to be spread

from the sick to the healthy, quarantine and good hygiene were considered the ways to control its spread. By the end of the decade, Walter Reed and his team identified mosquitos as the source, resolving a question that had plagued APHA members and paving the way for prevention and treatment.

## 1890

Mexico sends two delegates to the annual meeting.

## 1891

Frederick Montizambert, a French-Canadian physician, is elected the first non-U.S. President of APHA.

## 1892

Annual Meeting held in Mexico.

## 1892

Passes a resolution to appoint an international commission to investigate yellow fever.

## 1893

Women begin to address Annual Meetings on a variety of hygiene topics and join in policy discussions.

## 1893

The Committee on Tuberculosis recommends adoption of the registration of tuberculosis cases, establishment of special treatment hospitals, the organization of societies for the prevention of tuberculosis and government inspection of dairies to detect tuberculosis in livestock.

## 1894

Annual Meeting is held in Canada.

## 1896

Eduardo Liceaga of Mexico is elected president of APHA.

## 1898

APHA has nearly 1,000 members.

## 1899

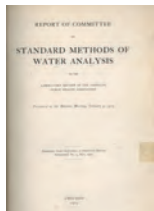
Resolution stating the environment plays an important role in public health.

Resolution defining the word epidemic.

## 1899

Bacteriology and Chemistry Section (renamed the Laboratory Section in 1903)

# 1900s: Establishing Standards



American Public Health Association

Since the beginning of the Association, the issue of clean water was a major concern. Published in 1905, "Standard Methods of Water Analysis" was the result of the efforts of a Laboratory Section committee. It was intended to codify and

encourage the use of modern laboratory methods to improve water analysis by "all who have to do with the sanitary study of water from the chemical or bacteriological standpoint." The success of the initial report led to the publication of "Standard

Methods of Milk Analysis" and furthered APHA's commitment to establishing standards for a wide range of public health research topics.

## 1900

Walter Reed first presents his findings that mosquitoes carry yellow fever at the Annual Meeting.

APHA considers the possibility of promoting the creation of leper colonies.

## 1903

Urges the creation of a National Commission on Public Health

## 1902

Cuba is invited to join the Association.

## 1903

Passes a resolution urging that a diploma of "Doctor of Public Health" be awarded by appropriate American universities.

## 1905

Publishes "Standard Methods of Water Analysis" (title changed in 1955 to "Standard Methods for the Examination of Sewage and Wastewater").

Publishes "Standard Methods for the Examination of Milk." (title changed in 1939 to "Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy Products")

## 1905

Advocates for regulations that would make vaccines safe and reliable to increase public willingness to be vaccinated.

## 1908

The American Public Health Association's standardized death certificate is adopted by the United States Bureau of Census.

## 1908

Resolution recommending to Congress the passage of legislation to enlarge the scope of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service.

## 1908

Health Administration Section

Applied Public Health Statistics Section

## 1909

The *American Journal of Public Hygiene* temporarily becomes the official publication of the Association.

## 1909

Resolution against appointing public health officials based on political affiliation.

# 1910s: Controlling Communicable Diseases



American Public Health Association

The first issue of *Public Health: Reports and Papers of the American Public Health Association* contained numerous articles about infectious diseases, particularly their relationship to local and domestic sanitary care. By the 1910s, scientific advancements in the understanding of germ

theory and strides in laboratory techniques and standards led to the publication of "Control of Communicable Diseases" in 1917, which was an influential guide to what were considered the best practices and legal practicalities available at the time to control contagious diseases. Soon after its release, it

proved invaluable as health professionals and the public confronted the worldwide 1918-1919 influenza pandemic. The 1918 Chicago APHA Annual Meeting was postponed due to concerns about the amount of disease in the city. Three months later, influenza was the main topic of the meeting with

papers examining all aspects of the pandemic and proposed methods for preventing and combating the disease.

## 1910

Adopts a pamphlet on sex hygiene.

## 1910

Virginia

## 1911

The *American Journal of Public Health* is established.

## 1911

Resolution advocating for the creation of a federal department of health.

## 1911

Environment Section

## 1914

APHA holds a "Special Symposium on Industrial Hygiene."

## 1914

Resolution regarding reporting and treatment of syphilis and gonococcus diseases and educational campaigns focused on prevention.

Resolution concerning the Harrison Narcotics Tax Act.

## 1914

Occupational Health and Safety Section

## 1915

Joins campaign for a compulsory health insurance law.

## 1916

The Association creates a Health Information Bureau.

## 1917

The first edition of "Control of Communicable Diseases in Man" is published.

## 1917

Food and Nutrition Section

## 1919

Resolution endorsing the principle of physical education.

# 1920s: Public Health – A Local Concern



Courtesy of the National Library of Medicine

From its inception, APHA leaders believed that public health was best handled at the local level. Despite promoting the National Health Council and federal public health entities, the Association regularly demonstrated a commitment to state, county and

local public health organizations by advocating for funding, supporting local public health services, publishing relevant articles in the Journal and establishing guidelines for training health officers.

<p><b>1920</b> Metropolitan Life Insurance Company donates \$5,000 to APHA to conduct a study which would result in the collection of reliable statistical information respecting health practices and expenditures.</p> <p>APHA joins the National Health Council.</p>	<p><b>1921</b> The Association reaches 5,000 members.</p> <p><b>1921</b> Maternal and Child Health Section</p>	<p><b>1922</b> Resolution against a law that would limit the use of experiments on animals.</p> <p><b>1922</b> Public Health Education and Health Promotion Section</p> <p><b>1922</b> Michigan</p>	<p><b>1923</b> Public Health Nursing Section</p> <p><b>1923</b> New Jersey</p>	<p><b>1925</b> Resolution in favor of establishing a health secretaryship in the federal government.</p> <p><b>1925</b> Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New Mexico, Texas</p>	<p><b>1926</b> Resolution advocating the pasteurization of all milk for human consumption.</p> <p><b>1926</b> West Virginia</p>	<p><b>1927</b> Committee on the Cost of Medical Care begins work.</p> <p><b>1927</b> Ohio, California-North, Southern California</p>	<p><b>1928</b> Urges “minimum basic training” for those entering the public health profession.</p> <p><b>1928</b> Connecticut, South Carolina, Missouri</p>

# 1930s: Advancing a National Health Program



Courtesy of the Library of Congress

The Depression plunged millions of Americans into poverty. The need for public health services increased, but the public health infrastructure suffered as health departments experienced budget, staff and program cuts. The Executive Board was keenly aware of this when, in 1933, as the minutes record, “several

prominent members of the Association were definite in their expression of opinion that now is the time to prepare and urge upon the President a national health program which would include where necessary provision at public expense, probably largely through federal aid, for the care of the sick as

well as standard health functions.” To this day, APHA remains a major proponent of universal health care.

## 1930

A Western Branch is established to better serve regional members, aid in the development of affiliated societies and address issues of local concern.

## 1930

Georgia

## 1932

President Herbert Hoover speaks at the Annual Meeting.

A Southern Branch is formed to strengthen membership and address regional issues.

The Committee on Professional Education is organized.

## 1932

Florida

## 1933

APHA broadcasts a radio program, “A Nations Investment in Health,” on NBC’s National Farm and Home Hour.

## 1933

Urges the president to establish a National Health Program which would provide for the care of the sick as well as standard health functions at public expense.

## 1934

Rural Health Conservation Contest is held for the first time.

## 1934

Resolution in support of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration encouraging distributing funds to local health organizations.

## 1935

Members vote to accept tobacco advertising in the *American Journal of Public Health*.

President Roosevelt signs the Social Security Act into law.

## 1936

A report is published on the Educational Qualifications of Health Officers.



# 1940s: Fostering Professionalism



Courtesy of the National Library of Medicine

Early on, the American Public Health Association made the case for the need for professional public health practitioners. Arguing against appointing public health officials based on political favors, the Association advocated for training and qualification

guidelines. In 1945, the Committee on Professional Education began to develop a plan for accrediting schools of public health.

**1946**

South Dakota

**1949**

Minnesota,  
Washington

**1940**

Colorado, Utah,  
Arizona, Idaho,  
Cuba (until 1963)

**1941**

Tennessee,  
Iowa

**1942**

School Health  
and Wellness  
Section

**1942**

Puerto Rico,  
Illinois

**1943**

Sets qualification  
standards for public  
health educators.

**1943**

Support for  
Wagner-Murray-Dingell  
Bill which proposed  
a national health  
insurance program.

**1943**

Oral Health Section

**1944**

Adopts statement  
on "Medical Care  
in a National  
Health Program."

**1944**

Kansas

**1945**

Launches  
accreditation  
program for  
schools of  
public health.

**1947**

Celebrates its 75th  
anniversary with  
11,530 members.

Annual dues are  
raised to \$7.

**1947**

Testifies in support of  
legislation relating to  
a cabinet-level  
Department of  
Health, Education  
and Security.

**1947**

North Dakota

**1948**

Martha May Eliot  
becomes the first  
woman to serve as  
APHA's President.

Committee on the  
Cost of Medical Care  
begins work.

Community water  
fluoridation begins.

The World Health  
Organization is  
founded with  
APHA support.

**1948**

Medical Care Section

# 1950s: Path to Equity



Courtesy of the National Library of Medicine

As early as 1873, articles in *Public Health: Reports and Papers of the American Public Health Association* examined the effects of disease on racially diverse populations. However, the Association itself did not address

issues related to health equity based on race until the 1950s. A 1955 Executive Board resolution called for full integration of health services and facilities. In 1963, the Association stated it would only “hold meetings

in cities that can guarantee no discrimination.” Today, health equity for all is central to APHA’s mission.

		<p><b>1953</b> Department of Health, Education, and Welfare created.</p>	<p><b>1957</b> Indiana, Arkansas, Nebraska, Oregon</p>	<p><b>1959</b> Maryland, Hawaii</p>		
<p><b>1950</b> Member Jonas Salk introduces the first polio vaccine.</p>	<p><b>1951</b> Creates the Professional Examination Service.</p>	<p><b>1952</b> “Fluoridation of Water Supplies” adopted by APHA.</p> <p>There are 13,000 members.</p>	<p><b>1954</b> Brown vs. Board of Education.</p> <p><b>1954</b> Louisiana</p>	<p><b>1955</b> Resolution on racial integration in health facilities.</p> <p><b>1955</b> Mental Health</p> <p><b>1955</b> Mississippi, Wisconsin, Montana</p>	<p><b>1956</b> The National Library of Medicine created with APHA support.</p> <p>Arden House meeting to examine the future direction of public health and of the American Public Health Association.</p>	<p><b>1958</b> Policy Statement on the use of seat belts.</p> <p><b>1958</b> Alabama, Kentucky</p>
<p><b>1950</b> Policy Statement on water fluoridation.</p> <p>Resolution on federal planning for the defense of the civil population against biological warfare.</p> <p><b>1950</b> Oklahoma</p>		<p><b>1952</b> New York, North Carolina</p>				

# 1960s: Ensuring Access to Care



Courtesy of the National Library of Medicine

Long an advocate for universal health care, APHA objected to the Medicare/Medicaid Act, arguing that it didn't go far enough. The Act, signed into law in 1964, greatly expanded access to care for poor and older Americans. APHA remained concerned about the

administration of the program and urged relying on local health departments to carry out Medicare responsibilities.

## 1961

Publication of "Accident Prevention: The Role of Physicians and Public Health Workers."

## 1961

Support for the Senate Migrant Farm Labor Health Proposal.

## 1961

Wyoming, Nevada

## 1963

Alaska

## 1964

President Johnson signs the Medicare/Medicaid Act.

The Surgeon General releases the first Report on Smoking.

## 1964

Support for the Civil Rights Act.

## 1964

Radiological Health Section (later eliminated)

## 1964

Washington, D.C.

## 1965

APHA first publishes "Public Health Law Manual."

## 1965

Advocates for specific provisions of Medicare/Medicaid Bill.

## 1968

Creates Community Health Action Planning Services.

## 1968

Policy Statement urging access to abortions is issued.

## 1968

Black Caucus of Health Workers

## 1969

Paul B. Cornely is elected APHA's first African American President.

## 1969

Community Health Planning and Policy Development Section

## 1969

Virgin Islands (until 1985)

# 1970s: Protecting the Environment



Courtesy iStockphoto

With its founding focus on sanitation and clean water, APHA has had a long interest in environmental issues. In 1899, the Association addressed climate concerns by passing resolutions on the need for forests to preserve public health. Throughout its history,

APHA has tackled problems ranging from safe water to industrial waste. Highlights of the 1970s included the passage of the Clean Air Act and the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency.

## 1970

*The Nation's Health*, a monthly newspaper, is launched.

## 1970

Supports the removal of legislative restrictions on the right of all women to obtain abortions.

Advocates for the Clean Air Act.

## 1970

Public Health Social Work Section

Women's Caucus

Community Health Workers Section

Veterinary Public Health Section (became One Health SPIG)

## 1972

Celebrates its 100th anniversary with 25,100 members.

Publishes "APHA 100: The First Hundred Years."

Headquarters move to Washington, D.C.

## 1972

Foot and Ankle Health Section

## 1972

Delaware

## 1973

Supreme Court ruling on *Roe vs. Wade* guaranteed the Constitutional right to an abortion.

Nonsmoking policy implemented for Annual Meetings.

## 1973

Supports and is cited in Supreme Court ruling on *Roe vs. Wade* which guaranteed the Constitutional right to an abortion.

## 1973

Latino Caucus

## 1975

Supports civil rights laws providing protections for "persons with homosexual orientation."

Safe Drinking Water Act.

## 1975

Sexual and Reproductive Health Section  
LGBTQ Health Caucus

## 1976

Endorses and supports legislation prohibiting the manufacture, sale, transfer, or possession of handguns and handgun ammunition for private use.

## 1976

International Health Section  
Socialist Caucus

## 1978

Presidential citation presented to Roslyn Carter.

## 1978

Aging and Public Health Section

## 1979

Vision Care Section

# 1980s: Addressing HIV/AIDS



Courtesy of the National Library of Medicine

APHA's first paper about sexually transmitted diseases was published in *Public Health: Reports and Papers of the American Public Health Association* in 1876. Sexually transmitted diseases remained an ongoing topic of interest

throughout the history of the Association. When the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention first named Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in 1981, APHA responded by passing an AIDS policy statement, organizing panels

for the Annual Meetings, and, in 1982, testifying at the first Congressional hearings about the virus.

## 1980

June Jackson Christmas is the first African American woman to serve as President.

"Promoting Health, Preventing Disease: Objectives for the Nation" is released.

## 1980

Ethics Section

## 1981

Endorses the Nestle boycott.

Opposes nomination of C. Everett Koop as Surgeon General.

## 1981

American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Caucus

Asian and Pacific Islander Caucus

## 1982

Testifies at the first Congressional hearings on AIDS.

## 1985

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs Section'

## 1985

Maine

## 1986

Jimmy Carter presents the keynote address at the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting attendees protest at the Nevada Nuclear Test Site.

## 1986

Inspires Surgeon General Koop to release report, "The Health Consequences of Involuntary Smoking."

## 1986

Peace Caucus

## 1987

"Selling the Smokeless Society" is published.

## 1988

"The Future of Public Health" is published.

## 1988

Disability Section

# 1990s: Preventing Injury, Strengthening Safety



By Abejon,  
Courtesy iStockphoto

Recognizing that preventable injuries are a leading cause of death, the American Public Health Association advocated for safe homes and workplaces. The Association also focused on highway safety. As early as 1920,

articles in the *American Journal of Public Health* addressed the need to prevent injury and death from "street vehicles." In 1958, the Executive Board proposed resolutions promoting behind-the-wheel driver training

and the use of seat belts. APHA remains one of the leading voices in the fight for transportation safety standards

## 1993

Helen Rodriguez-Trias from Puerto Rico becomes APHA's president.

## 1996

Caucus on Public Health and the Faith Community

## 1998

Rhode Island

## 1990

Americans with Disabilities Act passes.

## 1990

Law Section

Caucus on Homelessness

Veteran's Caucus

## 1992

Develops guidelines for universal health care.

Celebrates its 125th anniversary with 32,000 members.

Publishes "America's Public Health Report Card."

## 1992

Injury Control and Emergency Health Services Section

## 1994

Development of the Medicine and Public Health Initiative.

## 1994

Support for the Assault Weapons Ban.

## 1994

Integrative Complimentary and Traditional Health Practice Section

Academic and Practice Linkages in Public Health Caucus

## 1995

Establishes National Public Health Week.

## 1995

Chiropractic Health Care Section

Caucus on Refugee and Immigrant Health

## 1995

New Hampshire

## 1997

Nelson Mandela is awarded the Presidential Citation.

## 1997

APHA takes a leadership position on the Tobacco Settlement.

Advocates for the Children's Health Insurance Program.

## 1997

Spirit of 1848 Caucus

## 1999

Receives a grant from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in support of the "Buckle Up America" campaign.

## 1999

Supports the Children's Gun Violence Protection Act.

Advocates for the Patient Bill of Rights.

# 2000s: Preparing for Emergencies



American Public Health Association

The twin disasters of 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina focused new attention on public health and emergency management and preparedness. In the 1950s, the Association was concerned with civil defense in response to fears about nuclear warfare and bioterrorism. By 2006, the

Executive Board called on APHA "to create a national movement for all Americans to be able to protect themselves, their families and their communities from serious, preventable threats to their health." Although initially emphasizing the risk of avian flu, the "Get Ready" campaign

broadened its commitment to helping the public prepare for all hazards they may face, including pandemic flu and infectious diseases, disasters and other emerging public health threats.

<p><b>2000</b> Dedicates its building in Washington, D.C.</p>	<p><b>2001</b> Michael E. Bird is APHA's first American Indian President.</p> <p>Becomes involved in the "Initiative to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health by 2010."</p> <p><b>2001</b> Promotes reauthorization of the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act.</p> <p><b>2001</b> HIV/AIDS Section</p> <p>Community-Based Public Health Caucus</p> <p>Laboratory Section eliminated.</p>	<p><b>2003</b> Vermont</p>	<p><b>2004</b> Protests at the Annual Meeting regarding Pfizer branding.</p> <p><b>2004</b> Student Assembly</p>	<p><b>2005</b> The Annual Meeting is relocated to Philadelphia following Hurricane Katrina.</p> <p>National Board of Public Health Examiners established with APHA support.</p>	<p><b>2006</b> Launches "Get Ready" campaign, an all-hazards preparedness initiative</p>	<p><b>2007</b> Public Health Accreditation Board founded with APHA support.</p> <p><b>2007</b> Calls for caps on Greenhouse Gases.</p> <p>Expansion of State Children's Health Insurance Program and Medicaid.</p> <p><b>2007</b> Health Informatics and Information Technology Section</p>	<p><b>2009</b> Support for the Tobacco Control Act.</p> <p><b>2009</b> Physical Activity Section</p>
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# 2010s: Advancing Policy



American Public Health Association

When it was first organized, advocacy was one of the specified purposes of the Association. Several of its earliest efforts were in support of the National Board of Health and the National Quarantine Act. By 1902, there was a Committee

on Legislation and, beginning in 1958, APHA had a representative in Washington monitoring and engaging in federal legislative matters. APHA advocacy involvement included providing testimony, amicus briefs, information and presenting

resolutions and position papers. From 2010 through 2019 APHA successfully promoted the Affordable Care Act, the Food Safety Modernization Act, marriage equality and the reduction of greenhouse gases.

**2010**  
Passage of the Affordable Care Act.

**2010**  
Men's Health Caucus

**2011**  
Food Safety Modernization Act.

**2013**  
Policy Statement on Defining and Implementing a Public Health Response to Drug Use and Misuse.

**2013**  
Family Violence and Prevention Caucus

**2014**  
Creates "Healthiest Nation in One Generation" as central challenge.

APHA introduces its current logo.

**2015**  
Submits Amicus Brief in support of same-sex marriage.

**2016**  
Initiated "1 Billion Steps Challenge," later known as "Keep It Moving."

Launches "Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge" to develop practical, evidence-based strategies to improve measurable health outcomes.

**2017**  
Year of Climate Change and Health initiative.

**2018**  
Policy Statement on Achieving Health Equity in the United States.

**2018**  
Pharmacy Section

**2019**  
First Policy Action Institute.



# 2020s: Promoting Globalism



National Aeronautics and Space Administration

In the 1880s, APHA began to promote a “Pan-American” international health policy by including Canadian, Mexican and Cuban authorities in trans-national public health discussions. The 1944 Executive Board resolution calling upon the government of the United States to plan for the immediate development of

an international public health organization further cemented the Association’s interest in globalism and, with APHA support, the World Health Organization was established in 1948. In describing the theme of the 2001 Annual Meeting, “One World: Global Health,” Executive Director Mohammad Akhter wrote “National borders

cannot shelter people from the problems and plagues of other lands.” Today, APHA has a global perspective when addressing issues of climate change, health equity, human rights, population control and the worldwide spread of disease.

## 2020

Active in response to COVID-19 pandemic.

Annual Meeting goes virtual due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Launches second round of the Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge.

## 2021

American Rescue Plan Act

## 2022

The Supreme Court strikes down Roe vs. Wade reversing 50 years of abortion rights in the United States.

APHA celebrates its 150th anniversary with 25,000 members.

## The Decade Continues

APHA reaffirms its commitment to its mission to improve the health of the public and achieve equity in health status.