

REPORT OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

May 17, 2025

TO: HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

SUBMITTED BY: DANIEL SUMROK, MD, CHAIR

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1 In 2024, the Tennessee Medical Association (TMA) Public Health Committee met in  
2 January, June and September. The December meeting was cancelled.

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4 In Q1, the Committee discussed logistics for TMA's participation in a Middle  
5 Tennessee State University (MTSU) opioid study via email to our membership. This  
6 study consisted of a series of four emails TMA staff sent to our members studying  
7 stigmatizations in treating opioid patients. The study concluded in Q2, 2024, and  
8 results were presented to the full board in Q3. In addition to the opioid study, the  
9 Committee also worked, during the year, with TMA member, Dr. Wiley Robinson, and  
10 the Tennessee Bureau of investigation (TBI) on policy efforts aimed at reducing the  
11 backlog of testing rape kits at state crime labs.

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13 Previously in 2022 and 2023, the turnaround times the State of Tennessee had  
14 required for rape kit testing had extended to 45 weeks. Due to efforts in 2024 of the  
15 Tennessee General Assembly, advocacy efforts by TMA members like Dr. Robinson  
16 and the TMA Public Health Committee, the turnaround times for these kits has  
17 dropped to 10 weeks, according to media stories from various outlets as reported in  
18 Q3/Q4, 2024.

19  
20 On September 3, 2024, the Committee had its final meeting of the year to meet new  
21 members and to discuss TMA's participation in the Medical Society Consortium on  
22 Climate and Health (The Committee recommended the TMA join the consortium at  
23 this meeting).

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Sumrok, MD, Chair

2024-2025 Public Health Committee

Daniel Sumrok, MD (Chair)

Samantha Bookbinder, MD (RFS)

John Braun, MD

Amy Gordon Bono, MD

Robin Litten (MSS)  
Donald Lovelace, MD  
Daniel Sherwood, MD  
Harry Severance, MD

Bob Vegors, MD  
Brian Waggoner, MD  
Laura Andreson, DO, TMA Board Liaison  
John Carr, TMA Staff Liaison