

Policy Statements of Medical and Health Organizations

World Health Organization

Health Aspects of Population Dynamics, 1968

The Twenty-first World Health Assembly, having considered the report of the Director-General on health aspects of population dynamics;

Noting with satisfaction the development of activities in reference services, research, and training, and the provision of advisory services to Member States, on request, on the health aspects of human reproduction, of family planning, and of population dynamics...Emphasizing the concept that this programme requires the consideration of economic, social, cultural, psychological, and health factors in their proper perspective...

Recognizing that family planning is viewed by many Member States as an important component of basic health services, particularly of maternal and child health and in the promotion of family health and plays a role in social and economic development;

Reiterating the opinion that every family should have the opportunity of obtaining information and advice on problems connected with family planning including fertility and sterility;

Agreeing that our understanding of numerous problems related to the health aspects of human reproduction, family planning and population is still limited...Requests the Director-General

(a) to continue to develop the programme in this field...including also the encouragement of research on psychological factors related to health aspects of reproduction;

(b) to continue to assist Member States upon their request in the development of their programmes with special reference to:

the integration of family planning within basic health services without prejudice to the preventive and curative activities which normally are the responsibility of those services;
appropriate training programmes for health professionals at all levels;

(c) to analyse further the health manpower requirements for such services and the supervision and training needs of such manpower in actual field situations under specific local conditions...

American Medical Association

Policy on Human Reproduction, Including Population Control, 1964

...The Board recommends adoption of the following four-point statement of policy:

1. An intelligent recognition of the problems that relate to human reproduction, including the need for population control, is more than a matter of responsible parenthood; it is a matter of responsible medical practice.

2. The medical profession should accept a major responsibility in matters related to human reproduction as they affect the total population and the individual family.

3. In discharging this responsibility physicians must be prepared to provide counsel and guidance when the needs of their patients require it or refer the patients to appropriate persons.

4. The A.M.A. shall take the responsibility for disseminating information to physicians on all phases of human reproduction, including sexual behavior, by whatever means are appropriate.

Policy on Dissemination of Birth Control Information at Tax-Supported Institutions

...There should be no restraints on the physician concerning the dissemination of birth control information, and, as with other forms of quality medical care, such information should be equally available to both private and clinic patients. It is recognized, however, that in some areas restraints do exist for both physicians as purveyors and patients as recipients of such information...

It is recommended that the prescription of child-spacing measures should be made available to all patients who require them, consistent with their creed and mores, whether they obtain their medical care through physicians or tax or community-supported health services...

American Academy of Pediatrics

Policy Statement on Family Planning, 1965

The American Academy of Pediatrics recognizes that an intelligent program of total health care of children should include considerations of family