

APA Official Actions

Position Statement on Resident Physician Suicide

Approved by the Board of Trustees, December 2025

Approved by the Assembly, November 2025

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“Policy documents are approved by the APA Assembly and Board of Trustees. . . These are . . . position statements that define APA official policy on specific subjects. . .” – *APA Operations Manual*

Issue:

Despite the well documented elevated risk of suicide in resident physicians, there is still a lack of evidenced based organizational resources deployed that could reduce the overall risk of suicide, burnout, and depression in resident physicians. Tools specifically relevant to addressing resident suicide, including written and visual resources, have been developed yet considerable need remains for residency programs of various specialties to have readily accessible, relevant, and practical resources for understanding risk factors for and preventing resident suicide

APA Position:

Training programs should adopt evidence-based practices, implement supportive policies, and create a culture of compassion and understanding to reduce suicide risk amongst psychiatric residents and fellows.

Author: APA Committee on Well-Being and Burnout

Collaborators:

- Council on Medical Education and Lifelong Learning
- Assembly Committee of Area Resident-Fellow Members
- Committee on Well-Being and Burnout