



2026 Poster Awards

For the 2026 poster awards, CityMatCH staff will select nominees based on reviewers' scores prior to the conference. At the conference, a panel of judges will evaluate the nominated posters and select a winner in each category based on the criteria listed below. Categories include:

Outstanding Poster Award – Program & Policy

This award recognizes a presented poster in the program & policy submission track that best demonstrates the use of data and evidence translated to the development and/or evaluation of strong programs and/or policy.

Innovation (15 points)

- Approach creative/original?
- New or cutting-edge information developed?
- Challenges existing paradigms or address critical barriers to advancing the field?
- Employs novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools, or technology?

Grounding in Evidence (15 points)

- Evidence provided that the issue/problem is important?
- Is the approach evidence-based, or some evidence was presented that it was likely to be effective in addressing this problem within the population included in the program/project?

Evaluation (15 points)

- The initiative's evaluation plan was described
- The evaluation was completed (not required). The evaluation addressed knowledge, behaviors and/or outcomes of target populations (not only activities).

Implications for Public Health Practice/Policy/Research (15 points)

- Increases knowledge and/or improves public health practice significantly?
- Addresses an important understudied public health issue/topic?
- Provides new information on a well-studied public health issue/topic?
- Findings are applicable to a wide audience?

Overall Poster Quality (40 points)

- Reviewer's overall impression of the quality of the poster?
- Reviewer's overall impression of clarity of poster? Is the poster well organized, displayed in a logical sequence, and easy to follow?
- Is the poster visually appealing (color, diversity, etc.)?
- Conclusions clear and supported by data? Does the poster stimulate interest and discussion?



Outstanding Poster Award – Scientific Research & Data

This award recognizes a high-quality poster in the scientific research & data submission track that excels in methodology and best demonstrates the use of research and data to advance public health.

Innovation (10 points)

- Approach creative/original?
- New or cutting-edge information developed?
- Challenges existing paradigms or address critical barriers to advancing the field?
- Employs novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools, or technology?

Methodology/Approach (30 points)

- Study concept and design appropriate for the identified purpose of the study?
- Data appropriate for the study question?
- Clear how key variables were defined and measured?
- Clear what statistical methods were used for analysis; and are they appropriate?

Implications for Public Health Practice/Policy/Research (20 points)

- Increases knowledge and/or improves public health practice significantly?
- Addresses an important understudied public health issue/topic?
- Provides new information on a well-studied public health issue/topic?
- Findings are applicable to a wide audience?

Overall Poster Quality (40 points)

- Reviewer's overall impression of the quality of the poster?
- Reviewer's overall impression of clarity of poster? Is the poster well organized, displayed in a logical sequence and easy to follow?
- Is the poster visually appealing (color, diversity, etc.)?
- Conclusions clear and supported by data?
- Does the poster stimulate interest and discussion?



Exemplary Student Researcher

Special consideration will be given to abstracts submitted by students, and an outstanding student poster will receive an award for each category (program & policy and scientific research & data)!