Ohio Journal of Public Health - OJPH

Journal Summary
The goal of the Ohio Journal of Public Health is to publish high-quality, peer reviewed manuscripts that present research, as well as public health and educational practices that are relevant to Ohio. The journal will publish original papers on public health topics such as disease prevention, health promotion, health policy, environmental health, social justice, public health education, public health practice, and surveillance, among other topics. The focus will be on education, practice, and research conducted in Ohio or, if outside Ohio, relevant for Ohio public health.

About the Journal
This journal is sponsored by the Ohio Public Health Association. This is an online journal that publishes two issues per year (June 15 and December 15). The deadline for the June 15 publication is March 15. Final decision will be made by May 15. The deadline for the December 15 publication is September 15 and final decisions will be made by November 15.

Editorial Board
The Editorial Board will consist of the following individuals:

- Editor-in-Chief – 3-year term
- Associate Editor – Past President of OPHA
- 1 representative from each accredited College/School/MPH program (7 programs – OSU, Kent State, Case Western, Wright State, University of Cincinnati, Northeastern Consortium, Northwestern Consortium)
- 3 “at large” representatives, each from a different OPHA Section. The Sections which have a representative to the Editorial Board can rotate and will be appointed by the OPHA Executive Board.
- 2 members from local public health departments
- 2 OPHA student members – MPH or doctoral students who have at least 2 years left in their program
- 1 representative from the Ohio Department of Health

Except for student members who have 2-year terms, all members will have 3-year terms. However, members will initially be assigned to 2-, 3-, or 4-year terms in order to prevent forming a new Editorial Board every 3 years.

The Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editor will perform the tasks of assigning articles to peer reviewers and monitoring the review process. Other Editorial Board members will be largely advisory and serve to get the word out about the journal to their colleagues and sections.

All Editorial Board members must be members of OPHA.

ISSN: Not established.
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Publishing Criteria
OJPH does not accept for publication submissions that have already been published, in whole or in part, elsewhere in the peer-reviewed literature. All figures included in manuscripts should be original, and should not have been published in any previous publications. OJPH will not consider submissions that are currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Sharing work early through deposition of manuscripts with preprint servers, such as bioRxiv or arXiv, or published as a thesis, does not impact consideration of the submission. We will also consider work that has been presented at conferences.

Author Guidelines
Publication types:

1. Research articles: Original research on a public health issue. Up to 4000 words and a 250-word abstract. Should contain sections for Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion and Public Health Implications. Limited to 5 tables and/or figures. References should be AMA style.

2. Research briefs: Original research on a public health issue. Up to 2000 words and a 250-word abstract. Should contain sections for Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion and Public Health Implications. Limited to 2 tables and/or figures. References should be AMA style.

3. Letters/Op-Ed pieces: Opinion piece on a public health topic that is important and current in Ohio. Limited to 500 words and up to 5 AMA style references or footnotes.

4. Public health practice: Description of a public health program or approach to addressing a public health problem in Ohio. Up to 4000 words and a 250-word abstract. Limited to 5 tables and/or figures. References should be AMA style.

5. Public health education: Description of a public health education topic that is implemented in Ohio. Up to 4000 words and a 250-word abstract. Limited to 5 tables and/or figures. References should be AMA style.

6. Commentary: Description and evidence-based analysis of a public health issue. Please note this is not an opinion piece. Up to 4000 words. Limited to 5 tables and/or figures. References should be AMA style.

The corresponding author must be a resident of Ohio with an Ohio address. Other authors can reside outside of Ohio.
Authors will be given a template that they must use in order for the paper to be reviewed. Papers will be submitted through the website link to the Editor, who will then assign each paper to at least 2 peer reviewers.

**Review Guidelines**

Reviewers will be given a template to fill out for each paper and will be asked to submit reviews within 3 weeks. Reviewers will provide a recommendation to the editor; however, it will be up to the editor to make the final decision to reject, revise and resubmit, or accept based on the reviews received. If authors have the option to revise and resubmit, the revision will be due 2 weeks after the decision is received.

**Competing Interests for Reviewers**

*Reviewers will be asked to comply with the competing interests disclosure policy specified below.*

**For Editors, Articles Editors, and Peer Reviewers:** Editorial personnel avoid all financial relationships, personal, political, or intellectual entanglements, that might constitute a conflict of interest or that could be construed as establishing a particular bias that might influence one’s judgments.

Scientific publishing is a highly competitive enterprise. The number of manuscripts rejected far exceeds the number accepted at most journals. Requiring editors to remain conflict-of-interest free assures rejected authors that bias or potential bias did not enter into the editorial decision to reject their manuscript. Similarly, readers have the right to know that the choice of articles, choice of reviewers, and choice of editorial or commentary writers was made by senior editorial managers whose judgment was not influenced by financial conflicts of interest or ideological bias.

**Enforcement:** Conflict of interest disclosure relies on the honor system. Editors do not have the time, resources or inclination to serve as financial auditors or ideological arbiters. Successful disclosure policies depend on the good will and integrity of editors, authors, and peer reviewers.

Most cases of a failure to disclose relevant conflicts of interest arise because someone brings it to the attention of the editors. In such cases, editors should investigate the allegation. If true, editors should determine the cause of the failure to disclose a relevant conflict. The editors may wish to consult their editorial board.

In all cases of failure to disclose a relevant conflict of interest, editors will publish an editor’s note that becomes part of the permanent record of that article. In those rare cases where editors uncover a willful desire to hide financial conflicts of interest, the editors will consider appropriate penalties, such as refusing to allow that author to publish in the journal for a specified period of time.