JOURNAL OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH
Official Publication of the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine

AUTHOR INFORMATION PACK

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DESCRIPTION

The Journal of Adolescent Health is a multidisciplinary scientific Journal dedicated to improving the health and well-being of adolescents and young adults. The Journal publishes new research findings in the field of Adolescent and Young Adult Health and Medicine ranging from the basic biological and behavioral sciences to public health and policy. We seek original manuscripts, brief reports, review articles, clinical case reports, letters to the editor, and commentaries from our colleagues in Anthropology, Education, Ethics, Global Health, Health Services Research, Law, Medicine, Mental and Behavioral Health, Nursing, Nutrition, Psychology, Public Health and Policy, Social Work, Sociology, Youth Development, and other disciplines that work with or are committed to improving the health and well-being of adolescents and young adults. In addition we seek poetry, personal narratives, images, and other creative works from young people, family and community members, and health professionals that deepen our insights into the lived experiences of adolescents and young adults in a way that can augment scientific peer-reviewed research.

The Journal is the official publication of the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM), a multidisciplinary organization committed to improving the health and well-being of adolescents and young adults. One of the Society's primary goals is the development, synthesis, and dissemination of scientific and scholarly knowledge unique to the health needs of young people. To meet this goal, the Society established The Journal of Adolescent Health in 1980.

AUDIENCE

Pediatricians, General Practitioners, Family Practitioners, Nurses, Preventive Medicine Specialists, Psychologists, Public Health Professionals, Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Epidemiologists, Nutritionists, Anthropologists, Sociologists, and Psychiatrists.

IMPACT FACTOR

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**ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING**

Current Contents - Social & Behavioral Sciences  
Social Services Abstracts  
Biochemistry & Biophysics Citation Index  
Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature  
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Cover letter Disclosure of any prior publications or submissions with any overlapping information A statement that the work is not posted as a preprint or under consideration elsewhere Disclosure of any potential conflict of interest, real and perceived, for all named authors Names and contact information for 5 potential reviewers Statements of Authorship Please submit a separate statement for each named author Title page Article title Full names, academic degrees (master's level and above), and affiliations of all authors Name, address, e-mail address, telephone and fax number of the corresponding author Sources of funding and acknowledgments of support and assistance Disclosure of potential conflicts, real and perceived, for all named authors Clinical trials registry site and number List of abbreviations Manuscript Please double-space Abstract in the appropriate format: Original Articles and Briefs require structured abstracts; Review Articles and Clinical Observations require unstructured abstracts List of keywords Implications and Contributions statement Institutional Review Board (IRB) Research Ethics Board (REB) statement in the Methods section— or consent statement for Clinical Observations (Case reports)— in the Methods section References should be formatted according to the AMA Manual of Style, 11th edition; all references mentioned in the Reference list are cited in the text, and vice versa Figure titles should be on a separate page Manuscript has been spell-checked and grammar-checked Page numbering turned on Figures Each saved as a separate file, with captions/legends (without titles) Figure titles should be on a separate page Color figures are clearly marked as being intended for color reproduction on the Web (free of charge) and in print (for a fee), or to be reproduced in color on the Web (free of charge) and in black-and-white in print (free of charge); if only color on the Web is required, black-and-white versions of the figures are also supplied for printing purposes Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Web) Copies of prior and/or in press publications related to the current submission can be uploaded as separate files or e-mailed to the Managing Editor

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The Journal publishes the following types of articles. Word count limits apply only to the main body of the manuscript and do not include the title, references, or figure and table captions.

Original Articles
Original Articles are full-length scientific reports on the results of original research. Text is limited to 3500 words with a 250-word structured abstract, 5 tables/figures, and 40 references. Studies on human subjects require ethics committee approval and informed consent, which should be documented in the paper. Original articles should include a 50-word Implications and Contribution summary statement.

Adolescent Health Briefs
Adolescent Health Briefs are brief scientific reports of original research that represent preliminary findings, small samples, and newly described associations in unique populations. Briefs are limited to 1000 words, with a structured abstract of 150 words or less. A combined total of 2 figures and/or tables and a maximum of 20 references will be accepted. Studies on human subjects require ethics committee approval and informed consent, which should be documented in the paper. Briefs should include a 50-word Implications and Contribution summary statement.

Review Articles
Review Articles provide a high-quality summary of the mature literature in a specific area. Systematic reviews and meta-analyses are preferred, though strong, evidence-based integrative reviews will be considered for publication. Book chapters and dissertations will not be considered. All review articles are subject to a rigorous peer-review process. The format of the review article should include the introduction, review of the relevant literature, discussion, summary and implications section. Each review article must have a 200-word summary abstract. Review articles are limited to 4500 words, 5 tables/figures, and an unlimited number of references. Review articles should include a 50-word Implications and Contribution summary statement.
Clinical Observations (Case Reports)
Clinical Observations represent rare and new observations in the clinical arena. Papers in this format are limited to 1000 words and should include an introduction, concise discussion of the clinical observation, and discussion. Clinical observations should include a 200-word summary abstract. A combined total of 1 figure, table, or illustration and 10 references will be accepted. Studies on human subjects require ethics committee approval and informed consent, which should be documented in the paper.

Letters to the Editor
Letters to the Editor typically represent correspondence regarding articles published in the Journal within the preceding 6 months. The author(s) of the article that is the subject of the correspondence will be invited to respond. Letters to the Editor may also be utilized to notify the Journal audience about reports, events, organizations, or other announcements that may be relevant to the international adolescent and young adult health community. Letters should not exceed 400 words. If appropriate, Letters can be accompanied with up to 5 references. Disclosure of potential conflicts, real and perceived, for all named authors must be disclosed in the cover letter and at the bottom of the Letter to the Editor. This correspondence is published at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and the Associate Editors.

Commentaries
Commentaries serve as a forum for thoughtful discussions of critical issues in adolescent and young adult health, placed within the context of the scientific literature. Topics may include changes in relevant healthcare training and guidelines, governmental health policies and reports, international health, medical/scientific ethics, and meeting reports. Commentaries should not exceed 1,000 words and 10 references. Disclosure of potential conflicts, real and perceived, for all named authors must be disclosed in the cover letter and at the bottom of the Commentary. Commentaries are published at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and the Associate Editors.

Editorials
Editorials are invited by the Editor-in-Chief and are linked to an original research article published in the same issue of the Journal. Disclosure of potential conflicts, real and perceived, for all authors must be disclosed to the Editor-in-Chief at the time of invitation. Editorials aim to highlight important research findings and to place findings within a broader context for a wide audience. Editorials should not exceed 1,000 words and 20 references. Disclosure of potential conflicts, real and perceived, for all named authors must be disclosed at the bottom of the Editorial. Editorials are published at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and the Associate Editors.

Intersections
Intersections is a platform for sharing creative and artistic work by young people, family and community members, and health professionals. Intersections intends to deepen our insights into the health and well-being of adolescents and young adults that can augment scientific peer-reviewed research. Intersections amplifies the intersection of childhood with adulthood, and art with science. Submitted work may take the form of written word (e.g., poetry, personal narratives), or images (e.g., photographs or two-dimensional artwork). Authors must be 18 years of age or older. If the submission involves a true patient/person story or image, the patient/person must be adequately de-identified and the author/artist must obtain the patient/person's written permission for publication.

Items accepted for publication in Intersections may also be used by the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine for professional educational and awareness purposes, and the person who submitted the work will always be acknowledged. Submissions are reviewed and selected by the Intersections Section Committee and published at the discretion of the Intersections Section Editor(s), Editor-in-Chief, and Associate Editors.

Infographics
Infographics are graphical representations of data that make a clear and concise point about a specific topic. The Infographic should be based upon publicly available data. The image should measure 6 ? inches by 4 inches at 300dpi (1,950 x 1,200 pixels). Please include a title and 3-5 bullet points, which will run beneath the image. Infographics are published in full color in the digital edition of the Journal but should be designed to be comprehensible when converted to grayscale for publication in hard copy. Infographics are reviewed internally by the Editors.

Supplements
The *Journal* publishes externally funded supplements containing peer-reviewed articles. Initial inquiries and proposals for supplements should be directed to the Managing Editor and the Editor-in-Chief. Proposals approved by the Managing Editor and the Editor-in-Chief will be referred to the Elsevier Supplement Leadership Team.

**The Editorial Process**

*Acceptance for review*

Manuscripts submitted to the *Journal* are reviewed internally for interest and relevance. Approximately two thirds of all submitted manuscripts are returned to the authors following this internal review by the Editors; the remaining one-third are subjected to full peer-review. This decision is made quickly, within 10 business days of submission.

Initial review of submitted manuscripts involves collaboration among the Editor-in-Chief, Associate Editors, and the Editorial Board. We have developed the following four specific criteria to guide decisions about whether a submission is referred for full peer review versus "desk rejected" without full peer review:  
- **Topic/Content.** Is the content new, innovative, and/or important to the field of adolescent and young adult health?  
- **Science.** Is the scientific design and execution strong, and are the conclusions likely to be valid?  
- **Presentation.** Is the study (rationale, methods, results, and discussion) presented in an organized and easily understandable manner?  
- **Alignment with the Journal's Aims and Scope.** Does the study align well with the aims and scope of the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine's (SAHM) professional journal? The Journal prioritizes publication of information that will be of interest to people working on adolescent and young adult health in multiple geographical areas. For example, for the Journal to publish an article, its results should be of interest to those working in the field of adolescent and young adult health in more than one state in the United States, or more than one other country.

*Peer review and decision*

Manuscripts accepted for peer review are sent to three external reviewers. Reviewers are anonymous; authors' names are unmasked. The *Journal's* goal is to complete peer review and reach a decision within ten weeks of submission.

Manuscripts will either be declined based on reviewer comments or referred back to the authors for revision.

*Revisions requested*

A Revise and Resubmit decision is an invitation to present a carefully revised draft for further peer review; it is not an acceptance.

Authors are asked to complete revisions within 30 days. If the authors do not respond within 30 days, the editors may decline to consider the revision. Revised submissions are often sent to the original reviewers. The editors aim to provide a timely final decision upon receipt of the revision.

Revised manuscripts must include a revision letter that describes how the authors have specifically responded to each of the reviewer critiques. Requirements include: A detailed description of all responses to reviewer critiques, organized item by item, as a bulleted item list or in a table format. A version of the revised manuscript in which all changes are clearly visible. Our preferred option is the "Track changes" feature available in most word-processing software. A clean version of the revised manuscript.

*Appeal process*

Authors may appeal rejections. Appeals will be reviewed by an Editor who was not involved in the original decision. This appeal must: (1) be submitted by the primary author in writing, (2) rebut the negative decision, and (3) be submitted within 30 days after the decision is rendered. Consideration of the appeal will be based on the appeal letter, the version of the manuscript that was peer reviewed, and the reviews. The decision of an appeal is final.
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Fast-tracking for critical issues in adolescent and young adult health and medicine in adolescent health and medicine
Manuscripts accepted for a fast-track review will receive an expedited review. If the review is favorable, fast-track authors will be asked to complete any necessary revisions within two weeks.

Upon acceptance, fast-track manuscripts are prioritized for publication and should appear in print within two months.

Fast tracking is a rare event intended for high-priority findings and should not be viewed simply as a mechanism for an expedited review. The article should be prepared in the same manner as an Original Article.

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Registration of clinical trials
Clinical trials are studies that prospectively assign human subjects to an intervention or comparison group to test cause-and-effect relationships. Assignments are generally, but not necessarily, randomized. Interventions include behavioral treatments, process-of-care changes, nutritional programs, surgical procedures, drug regimens, medical and other devices, and the like.

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