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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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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

"Submission Checklist"

Types of articles
The Journal of Adolescent Health 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. 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. Briefs should include a 50-word Implications and Contribution summary statement.

Review Articles
Review Articles provide a high-quality summary of existing science in a specific area. Systematic reviews and meta-analyses are preferred, though strong, evidence-based integrative and narrative reviews will be considered for publication. 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 Case Reports
Case Reports 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.

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. 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. 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 Journal issue. Editorials aim is 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. Editorials are published at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and the Associate Editors.

The Intersection
The Intersection Section is a platform for sharing creative and artistic work by young people, family and community members, and health professionals. The Section intends to deepen our insights into the health and well-being of adolescents and young adults that can augment scientific peer-reviewed research. The Section 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). Submissions from persons under the age of 18 years must be accompanied by written permission to submit from a legal guardian. If the submission involves a true patient story or image, the patient must be adequately de-identified or the author/artist must obtain the patient's written permission for publication and current contact information. This should be provided in a cover letter to the editorial team upon submission. Items accepted for publication in *The Intersection* Section 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 Intersection* Section Committee, and published at the discretion of *The Intersection* Section Editor(s), Editor-in-Chief, and Associate Editors.

**The editorial process**

**Acceptance for review**

Manuscripts submitted to the *Journal of Adolescent Health* 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 days of submission.

**Peer review and decision**

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

Manuscripts will either be declined based on reviewer comments or referred back to the authors for revision. 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. The editors reciprocate by providing a final decision quickly upon receipt of the revision.

**Appeal process**

Authors may appeal decisions. All appeals are reviewed by the Editor-in-Chief, on a case-by-case basis, or a designated Associate Editor if the Editor-in-Chief is recused from the review. 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 and the version of the manuscript that was peer reviewed. The decision of an appeal is final.

**Acceptance for publication**

All manuscripts accepted for publication will require a written assignment of the copyright from the author(s) to the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine. Elsevier Inc. will maintain all records of the copyright for the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine. No part of the published material may be reproduced elsewhere without written permission from the publisher.

Authors will receive typeset galley proofs via e-mail from the Journal Manager at Elsevier. Proofs should arrive approximately four to six weeks following acceptance. It is the corresponding author's responsibility to carefully review typeset galley proofs for accuracy.

**Articles Online First**

The *Journal of Adolescent Health* publishes articles online ahead of print publication in the Articles Online First section of our web site. Articles are published online approximately six to eight weeks following the galley proofs. The online article is identical to the version subsequently published in the print journal and is citable by the digital object identifier (DOI) assigned at the time of online publication.

**Fast-tracking for critical issues in adolescent health and medicine**

Manuscripts accepted for a fast-track review will receive a two-week expedited review. The Journal will notify authors of the outcome of the review within three weeks of submission. 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.

**Release to media**

Until the time of publication on the *Journal of Adolescent Health*’s website, it is a violation of the copyright agreement to disclose the findings of an accepted manuscript to the media or the public. If you require an embargo date for your article, please contact the editorial office.

**Supplements**

The *Journal of Adolescent Health* publishes funded supplements containing peer-reviewed articles. Initial inquiries and proposals for supplements should be directed to the JAH Managing Editor, JAH Supplement Editor, and/or to Elsevier’s Senior Supplements Editor:

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**BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

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Please see our information pages on Ethics in publishing and Ethical guidelines for journal publication.

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Authors must immediately disclose to the Journal of Adolescent Health in writing the existence of any investigation or claim related to the manuscript with respect to the use of human or animal subjects that may be initiated by an institutional, regulatory, or official body at any time, including investigations or claims arising subsequent to manuscript submission, approval, or publication.

**Conflict of interest**

According to the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME):

"...a conflict of interest (competing interest) is some fact known to a participant in the publication process that if revealed later, would make a reasonable reader feel misled or deceived (or an author, reviewer, or editor feel defensive). Conflicts of interest may influence the judgment of authors, reviewers, and editors; these conflicts often are not immediately apparent to others. They may be personal, commercial, political, academic, or financial. Financial interests may include employment, research funding (received or pending), stock or share ownership, patents, payment for lectures or travel, consultancies, nonfinancial support, or any fiduciary interest in the company. The perception of a conflict of interest is nearly as important as an actual conflict, since both erode trust."

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The editors encourage authors to report fully the complete findings of their studies. The editors recognize that large and longitudinal datasets often result in multiple publications both on different topics and on the same topics across the span of development. Therefore, it is the authors' strict responsibility both to notify the editors of the existence of multiple manuscripts arising from the same study and to cross-reference all those that are relevant.

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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.

Authors reporting results of a clinical trial must affirm that the study has been registered at www.clinicaltrials.gov or another WHO-approved national or international registry prior to the enrollment of the first subject. A list of registries can be found at http://www.icmje.org/about-icmje/faqs/clinical-trials-registration/. The trial registration number must be listed on the title page of the manuscript submission packet.

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**Submission**
**Manuscript Preparation**

**General information**
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For the purposes of EES, a manuscript submission consists of a minimum of four distinct files: a Cover Letter, Manuscript, Title Page (with any Acknowledgments), and at least one Author Statement. EES accepts files from a broad range of word processing applications. Files should be set in 12-point double-spaced type, and all pages should be numbered consecutively. The manuscript file should follow the general instructions on style/arrangement, and, in particular, the reference style.

In addition, Tables and Figures should be included as separate and individual files.

If electronic submission is not possible, please contact Tor Berg, the Managing Editor, at tor.berg@ucsf.edu, or by phone at 415-502-1373 or by mail at: Editorial Office, *Journal of Adolescent Health*, University of California, San Francisco, Research and Policy Center for Childhood and Adolescence, 3333 California Street, Suite 245, San Francisco, CA 94118.

**Cover Letter**
A Cover Letter must accompany all submissions. The Cover Letter should describe the manuscript’s unique contribution and provide the following information in accordance with the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and Editing for Biomedical Publication available at [http://www.icmje.org](http://www.icmje.org):
- Disclosure of any prior publications or submissions with any overlapping information, including Methods, or a statement that there are no prior publications or submissions with any overlapping information;
• A statement that the work is not and will not be submitted to any other journal while under consideration by the *Journal of Adolescent Health*;
• A statement of any potential conflict of interest, real or perceived, the role of the study sponsor, and additional disclosures, if any; potential conflicts must also appear on the Title Page

**Submit your article**

**Referees**

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Authors should use nonproprietary names of drugs or devices unless mention of a manufacturer is pertinent to the discussion. If a proprietary product is cited, the name and location of the manufacturer must also be included.

**PREPARATION**

**Use of word processing software**

It is important that the file be saved in the native format of the word processor used. The text should be in single-column format. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. In particular, do not use the word processor’s options to justify text or to hyphenate words. However, do use bold face, italics, subscripts, superscripts etc. When preparing tables, if you are using a table grid, use only one grid for each individual table and not a grid for each row. If no grid is used, use tabs, not spaces, to align columns. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the Guide to Publishing with Elsevier). Note that source files of figures, tables and text graphics will be required whether or not you embed your figures in the text. See also the section on Electronic artwork.

To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

**Article structure**

**Subdivision**

Divide your article into clearly defined sections. Each subsection is given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line. Subsections should be used as much as possible when cross-referencing text: refer to the subsection by heading as opposed to simply 'the text.'

The text of Original Articles and Briefs should usually, but not necessarily, be divided into the following sections: **Introduction**, **Methods**, **Results**, and **Discussion**. Additionally, the *Journal* requests an **Implications and Contribution** summary statement.

**Implications and Contribution:** In addition to the abstract, please include a summary statement at the beginning of your manuscript. This summary should be no more than 50 words in length and should describe the significance of your study’s findings and its contribution to the literature in plain language. These summaries appear on the published articles and in various digests and newsletters.

**Introduction:** The introduction should clearly state the purpose(s) of the article and summarize the rationale for the study of observation. Please do not include an “Introduction” heading, just text. Only pertinent references should be used.

**Methods:** The selection of observational or experimental subjects (patients or experimental animals, including controls) should be clearly described in the Methods section. The methods, apparatus, and procedures used should be described in enough detail to allow other workers to reproduce the results. References should be provided for established methods, including statistical methods. Methods that are not well known should be concisely described with appropriate references. Any new or substantially modified method(s) should be carefully described, reasons given for its use, and an evaluation made of its known or potential limitations. All drugs and chemicals used should be identified by generic
name(s), dosage(s), and route(s) of administration. The numbers of observations and the statistical significance of findings should be included when appropriate. Patients' names, initials, or hospital numbers should not be used.

*Note that when reporting experiments utilizing human subjects, approval of the protocol by the sponsoring Institution's Committee on Human Subjects or its equivalent must be stated explicitly within the Methods section of the manuscript. In addition, the protocol for obtaining informed consent should be briefly described.

Results: Results should be presented in a logical sequence in the text, table(s), and illustration(s). Only critical data from the table(s) and/or illustration(s) should be repeated in the text.

Discussion: Emphasis in the Discussion section should be placed on the new and important aspects of the study and the conclusions that can be drawn. Detailed data from the results section should not be repeated in the discussion. The discussion should include the implications and limitations of the findings and should relate the observations to other relevant studies. The link between the conclusion(s) and the goal(s) of the study should be carefully stated, avoiding unqualified statements and conclusions not completely supported by the data. The author(s) should avoid claiming priority and alluding to work that has not yet been completed. New hypotheses, when stated, should be clearly identified as such. Recommendations, when appropriate, may be included.

Grammar, punctuation, and scientific writing style should follow the *AMA Manual of Style*, 10th edition.

Appendices
If there is more than one appendix, they should be identified as Appendix A, Appendix B, etc. Tables and figures in appendices should be given separate numbering: Table A1, Fig. A1, etc.

**Essential title page information**

- **Title.** Concise and informative (titles are limited to 140 characters). Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible.
- **Author names and affiliations.** Where the family name may be ambiguous (e.g., a double name), please indicate this clearly. Include the full names of all authors, as well as the highest academic degrees (excluding bachelor-level degrees) and the departmental and institutional affiliation of each. Please note that the *Journal* does not list fellowships of professional or certifying organizations as credentials. Relevant sources of financial support and potential conflicts of interest should be reported for all authors. Present the authors' affiliation addresses (where the actual work was done) below the names. Indicate all affiliations with a lower-case superscript letter immediately after the author's name and in front of the appropriate address. Provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name and, if available, the e-mail address of each author.
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- **Acknowledgments.** The title page should also include an Acknowledgments section, listing any sources of support such as grants, equipment, or drugs; and any acknowledgments of persons who have made a substantive contribution to the study. Authors should obtain written permission from anyone that they wish to list in the Acknowledgments section. The corresponding author must also affirm that he or she has listed everyone who contributed significantly to the work in the Acknowledgments. Previous oral or poster presentations at local, regional, national or international meetings should be reported here.

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