DESCRIPTION

Women's Health Issues (WHI) is a peer-reviewed, bimonthly, multidisciplinary journal that publishes research and review manuscripts related to women's health care and policy. As the official journal of the Jacobs Institute of Women's Health, it is dedicated to improving the health and health care of all women throughout the lifespan and in diverse communities. The journal seeks to inform health services researchers, health care and public health professionals, social scientists, policymakers, and others concerned with women's health. It has a particular focus on women's issues in the context of the U.S. health care delivery system and policymaking processes, and it publishes both original research and commentaries.

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AUDIENCE

Health Professionals, Social Scientists, Policy Makers, and others concerned with the complex and diverse facets of health care delivery to women.

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

Sociological Abstracts
Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature
Embase
PubMed/Medline
Studies on Women Abstracts
Current Contents
Scopus
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INTRODUCTION

*Women's Health Issues* is a peer-reviewed, bimonthly, multidisciplinary journal that publishes original research and commentaries on women's health care and policy.

The journal has a particular focus on women's issues in the context of the U.S. health care delivery system and policymaking processes, although it invites submissions addressing women's health care issues in global context if relevant to North American readers. As the official journal of the *Jacobs Institute of Women's Health*, it builds on a history of valuing methodologically rigorous investigation as a basis for improving the quality of health care for women and the health of women across the lifespan.

The journal seeks to inform health services researchers, social scientists, health care and public health professionals, and policymakers and to engage readers in the perspectives of multiple disciplines relevant to the study of women's health.

Please note that we do not accept for review clinical case reports or standard literature reviews. Systematic literature reviews and scoping reviews (see details below) and translational and implementation research studies are welcome.

At this time, we are not considering publication of manuscripts that report only descriptive statistics (e.g., only univariate analysis without accompanying qualitative findings or policy analysis). This is based on the fact that our small staff faces a large number of submissions and must prioritize them in some way, rather than any judgment about the value of such work, and we hope to be able to resume consideration of such manuscripts in the future.

The editorial board is also interested in empirical, methodological, and commentary pieces focused on the evaluation of sex and gender differences, with an emphasis on the reporting of stratified results over statistical adjustment. We also welcome studies that include, or whose samples are entirely composed of, trans men, trans women, and/or nonbinary individuals, because we are interested in the experiences and outcomes of people whose gender means they experience bias.

All manuscripts are subject to peer-review under the direction of the editors. Published manuscripts are abstracted and indexed in leading services, including Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature, EMBASE/Excerpta Medica, Index Medicus, ISI's Current Contents/Social & Behavioral Sciences Research Alert and Social SciSearch, Sociological Abstracts, and Studies on Women Abstracts. Unsolicited manuscripts are invited that address women's health issues relating to the mission of the journal. The Journal is available online at [http://whijournal.com](http://whijournal.com) and on [www.ScienceDirect.com](http://www.ScienceDirect.com).

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

*Ethics in Publishing*

For information on Ethics in publishing and Ethical guidelines for journal publication see [https://www.elsevier.com/publishingethics](https://www.elsevier.com/publishingethics) and [https://www.elsevier.com/journal-authors/ethics](https://www.elsevier.com/journal-authors/ethics). Ethical Approval of Studies and Informed Consent: If applicable, all manuscripts reporting data from studies involving human participants should include a statement that the research protocol was approved by the relevant institutional review boards or ethics committees. State in the Methods section the manner in which informed consent was obtained from the study participants (i.e., oral or written). For those investigators who do not have formal ethics review committees, the principles outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki of 1975 and as revised in 2000, should be followed. This requirement is in compliance with "Protection of Human Subjects and Animals in Research" described by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors ([http://www.icmje.org/#protect](http://www.icmje.org/#protect)).

*Editorial policy for ethics reviews in manuscripts reporting quality improvement studies*
The editors of *Women’s Health Issues* encourage submission of manuscripts that assess the impact of various quality improvement initiatives in health care. These initiatives may be at the system, organization, clinic, or provider levels. Often the evaluation of these initiatives involves collection of data from patients, health care providers, staff, trainees, or others. Policies and practices with respect to ethics reviews for quality improvement projects vary, and institutional policies are not consistent.

Accordingly, the editorial board of *Women’s Health Issues* has adopted the following policy for manuscripts based on quality improvement projects that are submitted to the journal for possible publication.

1. When the manuscript is based on quality improvement activities conducted at an academic institution or a health care organization with an Institutional Review Board, or when the author of the manuscript is employed at an academic institution or a health care organization with an IRB, the author of the manuscript is required to provide a statement to the effect that the study was or was not reviewed by the IRB. If the study was not reviewed by the IRB, the reason must be stated. If the study met the IRB’s criteria for exemption or if the study was determined to not constitute research, then that should be explicitly stated.

2. When the manuscript is based on quality improvement activities conducted at an academic institution or a health care organization without an IRB or at an academic institution or a health care organization that does not regard quality improvement efforts as research involving human subjects, then the authors are required to provide a statement to that effect.

The editors reserve the right to contact the authors to clarify the situation or to confirm that ethical practices were used in the conduct of the study.

Whether to proceed to peer review is at the Editor’s discretion. Inquiries about this policy may be directed to the Editor-in-Chief of *Women’s Health Issues*.

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All authors must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. Examples of potential conflicts of interest include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. See also [https://www.elsevier.com/conflictofinterest](https://www.elsevier.com/conflictofinterest).

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Sex generally refers to a set of biological attributes that are associated with physical and physiological features (e.g., chromosomal genotype, hormonal levels, internal and external anatomy). A binary sex categorization (male/female) is usually designated at birth ("sex assigned at birth"), most often based solely on the visible external anatomy of a newborn. Gender generally refers to socially constructed roles, behaviors, and identities of women, men and gender-diverse people that occur in a historical and cultural context and may vary across societies and over time. Gender influences how people view themselves and each other, how they behave and interact and how power is distributed in society. Sex and gender are often incorrectly portrayed as binary (female/male or woman/man) and unchanging.
whereas these constructs actually exist along a spectrum and include additional sex categorizations and gender identities such as people who are intersex/have differences of sex development (DSD) or identify as non-binary. Moreover, the terms "sex" and "gender" can be ambiguous—thus it is important for authors to define the manner in which they are used. In addition to this definition guidance and the SAGER guidelines, the resources on this page offer further insight around sex and gender in research studies.

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**Women's Health Issues** uses the serial (Oxford) comma.

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**Full-length articles:** These report the results of original research and contain the "Article structure" elements listed below. Full-length article manuscripts should contain 2,000 to 4,000 words, excluding front matter, references, and tables and figures; systematic and scoping reviews may contain up to 5,000 words, with the same exclusions. Systematic literature reviews and Policy Matters submissions fall into this category and have additional requirements described below.

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Policy Matters We invite authors to submit scholarly, thoughtful, and timely policy analyses related to various issues affecting women's health. These could include, for example: Policy implications of proposed legislation, regulations, judicial decisions at the federal, state, and local levels as they may affect women's health; Policy implications of current and future developments in programs integral to women's health (e.g., Medicaid, Medicare, community health, Healthy Start, WIC, family planning, public health, and private sector insurance coverage); Scholarly policy analyses of health and social issues affecting women's health from a historical perspective, e.g., the effects of delinking Medicaid from welfare and subsequent reproductive health choices, or the effects of state and national health reform efforts on women's health; and, Scholarly policy analyses that contribute to our understanding of how effective policy actions can improve the scope and quality of women's health care services and the organization, financing, and delivery of these services.

"Policy Matters" submissions may contain recommendations for "next steps," however a key peer review criterion will be the extent to which such recommendations are supported by the rigor and comprehensiveness of the supporting policy analysis. Please note in your submission cover letter that you

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