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
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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.

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. Further information is available at [http://publichealth.gwu.edu/projects/jiwh](http://publichealth.gwu.edu/projects/jiwh). 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**

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**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*.

**Conflict of Interest**

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/conflictsofinterest](https://www.elsevier.com/conflictsofinterest).

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Reporting sex- and gender-based analyses
Reporting guidance
For research involving or pertaining to humans, animals or eukaryotic cells, investigators should integrate sex and gender-based analyses (SGBA) into their research design according to funder/sponsor requirements and best practices within a field. Authors should address the sex and/or gender dimensions of their research in their article. In cases where they cannot, they should discuss this as a limitation to their research's generalizability. Importantly, authors should explicitly state what definitions of sex and/or gender they are applying to enhance the precision, rigor and reproducibility of their research and to avoid ambiguity or conflation of terms and the constructs to which they refer (see Definitions section below). Authors can refer to the Sex and Gender Equity in Research (SAGER) guidelines and the SAGER guidelines checklist. These offer systematic approaches to the use and editorial review of sex and gender information in study design, data analysis, outcome reporting and research interpretation - however, please note there is no single, universally agreed-upon set of guidelines for defining sex and gender.

Definitions
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
to 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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PREPARATION

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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 literature reviews and Policy Matters
submissions fall into this category and have additional requirements described below.

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We consider two types of reviews for publication: systematic literature reviews and scoping reviews. Reviews must address a clear research question of importance to women's health and of interest to WHI readers. Both types of reviews should provide detailed information about how the review was conducted, particularly the inclusion criteria for identifying the studies reviewed. Systematic literature reviews must include data syntheses (rather than just summaries of published work) and evaluate the quality of included studies; see the Cochrane Collaborative for examples. Scoping reviews must be clear about how authors determined the types of studies to include, the quality of evidence they provide, and how those decisions affected conclusions about what is known and the gaps in knowledge. Please note that we do not accept for review clinical case reports or literature reviews that do not meet these standards for transparency and rigor.

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.

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All manuscripts must contain a section entitled, "Implications for Practice and/or Policy." This section should address what practical lessons practitioners and/or policymakers can learn and potentially implement to improve outcomes. The manuscript text must not include any identifying author details.

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The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section.

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- **Acknowledgments.** As needed.

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A structured abstract, by means of appropriate headings, should provide the context or background for the research and should state its purpose, basic procedures (observational and analytical methods), main findings (giving specific effect sizes and their statistical significance, if possible), and principal conclusions (including implications for practice and/or policy). It should emphasize new and important aspects of the study or observations. Abstract should be no longer than 250 words.

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You are urged to visit this site; some excerpts from the detailed information are given here.
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