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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.

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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.

IMPACT FACTOR

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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

*Women's Health Issues* is a peer-reviewed, bimonthly, multidisciplinary journal that publishes original research 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 that include data syntheses (rather than just summaries of published work), and translational and implementation research studies are welcome.

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.

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BEFORE YOU BEGIN

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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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Each submission from either of these categories must include a Cover Letter and a Title Page as well as a blinded Manuscript without Author Details. If a manuscript is revised and re-submitted, the revision must be accompanied by a Response to Reviewers and by an Author Descriptions file if this was not submitted with the original manuscript.

**Systematic Literature Reviews** Systematic literature reviews that include data syntheses (rather than just summaries of published work) are welcome. For examples of what constitutes a systematic literature review, please visit the Cochrane Collaborative at [http://www.cochrane.org/about-us/evidence-based-health-care](http://www.cochrane.org/about-us/evidence-based-health-care). Please note that we do not accept for review clinical case reports or standard literature reviews.

**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. "Policy Matters" manuscripts should not exceed 3,000 words - charts and graphs are encouraged when appropriate. Please note in your submission cover letter that you are submitting to the "Policy Matters" category.

The journal continues to give priority to scholarly health services research articles that report the results of original research and that improve understanding of how social, health care, and policy factors relate to women's health. We seek in particular research articles and commentaries that: Contribute to a better understanding of gender-based health services research and policy; and Document applied integration and implementation strategies that translate new clinical, health services, and health policy research findings into women's health care practice and policy

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