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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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ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

Sociological Abstracts
Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature
Embase
PubMed/Medline
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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.

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. The Journal is available online at http://whijournal.com and on www.ScienceDirect.com.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN
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For information on Ethics in publishing and Ethical guidelines for journal publication see https://www.elsevier.com/publishingethics and 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).

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.

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Please submit, with the manuscript, the names, addresses and e-mail addresses of three potential referees. Note that the editor retains the sole right to decide whether or not the suggested reviewers are used.

PREPARATION

Manuscript Length and Type
This journal accepts two kinds of submissions:

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.

Commentaries: Commentaries should contain no more than 2,000 words and should present a novel argument about a topic affecting women’s health. Commentary manuscripts do not need to follow the structure of full-length articles (e.g., they do not require abstracts or the sections listed under "Article Structure" below). The argument presented, however, must be supported with references.

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 Biography 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) and evaluate the quality of included studies are welcome. For examples of what constitutes a systematic literature review, please see the Cochrane Collaborative. 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. 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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This journal operates a double blind review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor's decision is final. More information on types of peer review.

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State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.

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Results should be clear and concise.

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• Funding statement. A statement of any funding sources for the work reported in the manuscript, with disclosure of any financial conflicts of interest involving any of the co-authors. Funders must be identified by name.
• Acknowledgments. As needed.

Author Biography
The Author Biography page must contain short (< 41 words) descriptions of the affiliations and research interests or areas of expertise for each author for publication with the manuscript if accepted for publication.

Abstract
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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Define abbreviations that are not standard in this field in a footnote to be placed on the first page of the article. Such abbreviations that are unavoidable in the abstract must be defined at their first mention there, as well as in the footnote. Ensure consistency of abbreviations throughout the article.

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• Provide captions to illustrations separately.
• Size the illustrations close to the desired dimensions of the published version.
• Submit each illustration as a separate file.
• Ensure that color images are accessible to all, including those with impaired color vision.

A detailed guide on electronic artwork is available.
You are urged to visit this site; some excerpts from the detailed information are given here.

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Reference to a book:

Reference to a chapter in an edited book:

Reference to a website:

Reference to a dataset:

Reference to a conference paper or poster presentation:

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