DESCRIPTION

The Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior (JNEB), the official journal of the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior, is a refereed, scientific periodical that serves as a global resource for all professionals with an interest in nutrition education; nutrition and physical activity behavior theories and intervention outcomes; complementary and alternative medicine related to nutrition behaviors; food environment; food, nutrition, and physical activity communication strategies including technology; nutrition-related economics; food safety education; and scholarship of learning related to these areas.

The purpose of JNEB is to document and disseminate original research and emerging issues and practices relevant to these areas worldwide. The Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior welcomes evidence-based manuscripts that provide new insights and useful findings related to nutrition education research, practice and policy. The content areas of JNEB reflect the diverse interests in nutrition and physical activity related to public health, nutritional sciences, education, behavioral economics, family and consumer sciences, and eHealth, including the interests of community-based nutrition-practitioners. As the Society's official journal, JNEB also includes policy statements, issue perspectives, position papers, and member communications. Guidelines for Authors are available at www.jneb.org/content/authorinfo.

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INTRODUCTION

The Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior (JNEB), the official journal of the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior, is a refereed, scientific periodical that serves as a global resource for all professionals with an interest in nutrition education; nutrition and physical activity behavior theories and intervention outcomes; complementary and alternative medicine related to nutrition behaviors; food environment; food, nutrition, and physical activity communication strategies including technology; nutrition-related economics; food safety education; and scholarship of learning related to these areas. The purpose of JNEB is to document and disseminate original research and emerging issues and practices relevant to these areas worldwide. The Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior welcomes evidence-based manuscripts that provide new insights and useful findings related to nutrition education research, practice and policy. The content areas of JNEB reflect the diverse interests in nutrition and physical activity related to public health, nutritional sciences, education, behavioral economics, family and consumer sciences, and eHealth, including the interests of community-based nutrition-practitioners. As the Society's official journal, JNEB also includes policy statements, issue perspectives, position papers, and member communications.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

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When submitting a manuscript, please disclose all potential conflicts in the space provided for that purpose. When citing the sources of funding for your research, please include the date and source. All information regarding conflict of interest will be available online as part of the published manuscript.

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The *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior* follows the guidelines for authorship from the International Committee for Medical Journal Editors (http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html). As such, the journal recommends that authorship be based on the following 4 criteria:

1. Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
2. Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
3. Final approval of the version to be published; AND
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**PREPARATION**

**Manuscript Preparation**

*General manuscript preparation*
The primary responsibility for preparing the manuscript in a form suitable for publication lies with the authors. Manuscripts (including the main text, references, and figure legends) should be saved without a title page as a single file and should be prepared in 12-point typeface, double-spaced, and in a single column with 1-inch margins throughout. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed upon initial processing of the article. Do not use the software's options to justify text or to hyphenate words. Use the software’s bold, italic, subscript, and superscript functions. Use the software’s table function to create tables, using rows and columns, not tabs and spaces, to align data.

Beginning with the Introduction, each manuscript page is numbered in the upper right-hand corner and each line of text is numbered consecutively. First-level headings are centered on the page, typed in uppercase, bolded letters, and followed by two blank lines. Second-level headings begin flush with the left margin, have each word capitalized and bolded, and are followed by one blank line. Third-level headings begin flush with the left margin, are written sentence style with a period at the end, and are bolded. Text follows immediately on the same line. (Third-level headings are only used in Research Articles.)

Page and word limits are noted below. Page and word limits exclude the abstract but include all other text, acknowledgments, tables, figures, and references. Manuscripts must not exceed word count limits or page limits.

- *Research Article*: 20 double-spaced pages
- *Research Brief*: 14 double-spaced pages
- *Research Methods*: 25 double-spaced pages
- *Report*: 14 double-spaced pages
- *Systematic Review*: 25 double-spaced pages
- *Perspective*: 12 double-spaced pages
- *GEMs*: 6 double-spaced pages
- *Letter to the Editor*: 2 double-spaced pages

Slightly longer articles (up to approximately 5 additional pages) may be considered in the case of qualitative research owing to the nature of findings (words versus numbers), which require more space to report. Deviation from page guidelines may result in a request to shorten a manuscript before it is sent to reviewers or in a decision to decline further consideration of a manuscript.

Please note:

Scientific manuscripts (RA, RB) should have internal and external validity and move the field of nutrition education and behavior forward. The study objectives and result should hold significance for a larger audience than the one in the study. Threats to internal validity should be carefully explained in the limitations, such as selection bias and uncontrolled confounding variables. Threats to external validity include all situational specifics which may be conditions of the study or attributes of when and where the study is conducted. These also should be explained in the limitations. The extent to
which these threats overwhelm the study results' internal and external validity will be evaluated by the editor when considering decisions about the manuscript. Those with higher internal and external validity are more likely to be moved by the editor to external review and evaluation for publication.

**Institutional Review Board.** It also specifies that the project was reviewed and approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB) or similar human studies review board, with a full, expedited, or limited review and that written, oral, or implied consent and/or assent was obtained. For all projects with IRB approval other than exempt, authors should include how consent was obtained. Alternately, if no IRB approval was necessary for this research, please add a statement explaining why. In this statement, include which institution reviewed the study and decided that it was exempt from IRB review (institution should be blinded for review). If it was not reviewed by your university or institution, please provide the documentation that pertains to this type of study, deeming it unnecessary to be reviewed. An example of this may be:

"Review by the IRB was not required for this study because human subjects were not involved, as per US Department of Health and Human Services guidelines (http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/policy/checklists/decisioncharts.html#c1)."

The DHHS regulations may also allow projects to be exempt if they have agency or unit head approval and the data are unidentifiable. In these cases, the Methods section should state:


The bolded section may also be an abbreviated version of:

(5) Research and demonstration projects that are conducted by or subject to the approval of department or agency heads, and which are designed to study, evaluate, or otherwise examine: (i) Public benefit or service programs; (ii) procedures for obtaining benefits or services under those programs; (iii) possible changes in or alternatives to those programs or procedures; or (iv) possible changes in methods or levels of payment for benefits or services under those programs.

**International Research:** Research conducted by US university investigators in foreign countries remains under the researchers' university purview and guidelines. Research conducted by non-US investigators is under the purview of that country's human studies guidelines, or international guidelines to which the particular country might adhere.

**Author Guidelines for Manuscript Titles**

**Short:** Try to keep to 12 words or less

- Instead of "A School-based Intervention for 5 to 7 Year Olds to Improve General Nutrition Knowledge, Self-Efficacy for Choosing Healthy Snacks, Fruit and Vegetable Intake, and Minutes Spent in Active Play in 2 Counties in Texas with Head Start"
- Suggest "Head Start Program Focusing on Diet and Active Play"
- Instead of "Development and Internal and Test-Retest Reliability, Content Validity and Construct Validity of a Questionnaire to Determine General Nutrition Knowledge, Self-efficacy for Choosing Healthy Snacks, Fruit and Vegetable Intake, and Minutes Spent in Active Play for 14 to 16 year old Boys in Michigan"
- Suggest "Diet and Active Play Questionnaire Development for Teens"

**Active voice:**

- Instead of "Total Fiber Improved with Whole Grain Program"
- Suggest "Whole Grain Program Improves Total Fiber Intake"

**Professional, not trite:**

- Instead of "LB/FB Increases Shares for EFNEP Programs"
- Suggest "Social Media Strategies in EFNEP"
- Instead of "Snacking and Yakkig: Social Interaction to Promote Healthy Choices"
- Suggest "Conversation Improves Healthy Snack Choices"

**Statement, not question**

- Instead of "Will a Three Week Afterschool Program Improve Low Fat Food Choices?"
- Suggest "Impact of an Afterschool Low Fat Food Program"

**Research Articles**

Research Articles are concise reports of original research on any aspect of nutrition education and/or behavior. Papers based on the results of preliminary research are not acceptable.
In Research Articles, a structured abstract of 200 words or less organizes information with descriptive headings that begin flush with the left margin. Incomplete sentences are acceptable in a structured abstract for the sake of brevity. To facilitate selective electronic searches, structured abstracts include the following subheadings (verbatim), bolded and presented in the order shown here:

- **Objective**: Specifies the primary purpose or objective(s) of the study and/or hypotheses tested.
- **Design**: Describes the basic research design, methods used to collect data, timing and sequence of intervention, and data collection.
- **Setting**: Describes the study setting. This subheading may not be appropriate for secondary data analyses and can be omitted.
- **Participants**: States the number of participants or subjects/objects of observation by group and subgroup, describes how they were selected, specifies the response rate for participants, summarizes key demographic characteristics for each study group and subgroup, and describes the extent to which they represent the population from which they were drawn (may not be appropriate for secondary data analyses). More or less information relating to participants may be included, depending on word count limits and the need for more space in the "Results" section.
- **Intervention(s)**: Describes the essential features of the intervention(s), including setting, methods, and duration. If no intervention was conducted, omit this subheading from the abstract.
- **Main Outcome Measure(s)**: Specifies dependent and independent variables and describes how each variable was measured. In the case of descriptive research, replace this subheading with "Variables Measured." In the case of qualitative research, replace this subheading with "Phenomenon of Interest."
- **Analysis**: Summarizes how data were analyzed quantitatively and/or qualitatively and specifies the level used to determine statistical significance of quantitative results.
- **Results**: Summarizes primary results reported in the manuscript, including the number of participants (if it differs from what was described in the "Participants" section), direction of change, and variance and level of statistical significance for each quantitative result, as well as confidence intervals or effect sizes wherever appropriate. Qualitative themes should be reported.
- **Conclusions and Implications**: Specifies study conclusions directly supported by results reported in the abstract and specifies implications for research and practice or policy, when appropriate.

Research Articles include the following major sections:

- **Introduction**: Concisely describes the issue addressed in the manuscript, explains its importance in relation to existing literature, describes the theoretical or conceptual foundation on which the study is based, states the objectives of the article, and specifies the hypotheses tested.
- **Methods**: Describes the research design, sampling methods, recruitment strategies, measurement instruments, methods used to test instruments for validity and reliability, data collection procedures, and statistical analyses in enough detail for replication. The Methods section specifies the level used to determine statistical significance for each test. Confidence intervals and standard errors of the mean, effect sizes, or other statistical results that may be used for post hoc analyses comparing program results are encouraged. For general statistical guidelines, go to Guidelines for Statistical Methods for JNEB. However, if authors are using t tests and more than 2 t tests are being conducted with a data set, in addition to testing for normality, they should also use a Bonferroni adjustment or other adjustment that is supported with reference. For example, if authors used t tests to measure pre-post differences after an intervention for calcium knowledge, calcium-related behavior, sodium knowledge, self-efficacy to lower sodium, and fruit and vegetable intake, then they have used 5 t tests and should use the Bonferroni adjustment or other adjustment, which is available in both SPSS and SAS software packages. This adjustment will decrease the probability that authors find a significant effect by chance. There are exceptions to this, but authors must justify such an exception within their methods. The Methods section provides rationale for analyzing data by race or ethnicity (if applicable).

- **Results**: Outlines results clearly and systematically, mentioning or highlighting—but not duplicating—information displayed in tables, and specifies the direction and magnitude of each statistically significant difference reported. Carefully designed tables and figures are encouraged to showcase results.
• **Discussion:** Provides an in-depth interpretation of results reported, compares and discusses results in relation to those from similar studies reported in the literature and in relation to theory, outlines limitations of the study, describes how study limitations influence interpretation of results, and offers alternative explanations for the findings. The Discussion section should not represent a summary of results.

• **Implications for Research and Practice:** Specifies how researchers and practitioners, and policy makers when appropriate, could apply results to future work.

*Research Articles* may include second-level sections to clarify or enhance readability within major sections. At times, *Research Articles* may require second-level sections that are specific to the research being reported. The following second-level sections are generally recommended, if necessary, for these major sections:

- Methods: Study Design, Participants and Recruitment (includes descriptions of sampling methodology and ethical approval/human subjects consent), Instruments, Measures, Procedures, and/or Data Analysis
- Discussion: Limitations

**Research Briefs**

*Research Briefs* are (1) articles that describe development and validation of new measures and methods for research and/or (2) articles that satisfy all criteria for a *Research Article* but report results from a small or non-representative sample, report on secondary or ancillary results from a larger study, or report on a topic that is considered low priority but would be of interest to some readers of *JNEB*.

Structured abstracts for *Research Briefs* of 150 words or less include the following subheadings (verbatim), bolded and presented in the order shown here:

- **Objective:** Specifies the primary purpose or objective(s) of the study and/or hypotheses tested.
- **Methods:** Describes the basic research design, methods used to collect data, timing and sequence of intervention, and data collection.
- **Results:** Summarizes primary results reported in the manuscript, including the number of participants, direction of change, and variance and level of statistical significance for each quantitative result, as well as confidence intervals or effect sizes wherever appropriate.
- **Conclusions and Implications:** Specifies study conclusions directly supported by results reported in the abstract and specifies implications for research and practice or policy making when appropriate.

*Research Briefs* include the same major sections as *Research Articles*. Use of second-level sections is allowed, but overuse is discouraged. Third-level sections are not permitted in *Research Briefs*.

**Research Methods**

*Research Methods* are manuscripts that describe the objectives and methodologies for multi-year interventions whose aims are to change nutrition and/or physical activity behavior and/or related physiological outcomes, such as BMI or blood glucose. *Research Methods* are expected to have protocols that have already undergone review external to the author's institution (federal or national agencies) prior to funding. Although Results are not included in *Research Methods*, a Discussion should include a brief summary of potential limitations and expected benefits or outcomes. *Research Methods* are peer-reviewed by the Editors and a member of the Board of Editors for completeness, clarity, and contribution to the literature. *Research Methods* are assigned a digital object identifier (DOI).

A structured abstract of 200 words or less organizes information with descriptive headings similar to those of a *Research Article*:

- **Objective:** Specifies the primary purpose or objective(s) of the study and/or hypotheses tested.
- **Design:** Describes the basic research design, methods used to collect data, timing and sequence of intervention, and data collection.
- **Setting:** Describes the study setting.
- **Participants:** States the number of participants or subjects/objects of observation by group and subgroup and describes how they will be selected.
- **Intervention(s):** Describes the essential features of the intervention(s), including setting, methods, and duration.
- **Main Outcome Measure(s):** Specifies dependent and independent variables and describes how each variable will be measured.
• **Analysis:** Summarizes how data will be analyzed quantitatively and/or qualitatively and specifies the level used to determine statistical significance of quantitative results.

*Research Methods* include the following major sections: Introduction, Methods, and Discussion (which should describe the protocol’s strengths and limitations as described to funding agencies). They should not include sections for Results or Implications for Research and Practice.

The future tense of verbs is used throughout *Research Methods*.

**Reports**

*Reports* are (1) articles that discuss policy issues relevant to nutrition education and behavior, or (2) articles that review emerging topics as they relate to nutrition education and behavior. *Reports* reflect newly proposed models or processes with relevance to policy or research methodology. *Reports* are not reviews of the literature without critical evaluation and interpretation. To decide whether your manuscript is a *Report*, *Research Brief*, or *Research Article*, consider the topic itself and whether it reflects the prior definitions. It may be helpful to read some *Reports* as you decide.

Examples of *Reports* include:

- **Cost-Effectiveness Model for Youth EFNEP Programs: What Do We Measure and How Do We Do It?** Serrano et al. JNEB 2011;43:295-302. This Report presents the results of an expert panel related to a national program and the policy implications of creating a model for determining costs and effects of the program.
- **Best Practices Models for Implementing, Sustaining, and Using Instructional School Gardens in California.** Hazzard et al. JNEB 2011;43:409-413. This Report contains the results of interviewing key members in schools who had exemplary school garden programs, with the synthesis into best practices, which could lead to policy changes.
- **Obesity in Rural Youth: Looking Beyond Nutrition and Physical Activity.** Reed et al. JNEB 2011;43:401-408. This Report presents emerging ideas concerning traditional and nontraditional factors contributing to childhood obesity in rural youth within an expanded Social Ecological Framework that the authors have developed.
- **Nutrition Program Quality Assurance through a Formalized Process of On-Site Program Review.** Paddock and Dollahite. JNEB 2012;44:183-188. This Report describes the development and lessons learned from implementing a nutrition program quality assurance process, which could be replicated with other state nutrition programs, and whose goal was to influence policies on programming to ensure excellence.

*Reports* have an unstructured abstract (100-word limit) written in paragraph form. The unstructured abstract should provide a brief overview of all key aspects of the manuscript. Topics covered in a conventional abstract depend on whether the manuscript describes a program and its evaluation, a new research method, or a review of literature or policy issues. All abstracts begin with a clearly defined purpose or objective and end with conclusions and implications for research, practice, and policy making.

*Reports* include the following major sections: Introduction, Discussion, and Implications for Research and Practice. They should not include sections for Methods or Results. Instead, they should employ alternately titled headings that distinguish them from *Research Articles* and *Research Briefs*. Examples include Description of the Intervention, Description of the Evaluation, and Lessons Learned. *Reports* that develop new concepts or review topics may include additional major sections as needed. Second-level sections are allowed, but overuse is discouraged. Third-level sections are not permitted in *Reports*.

**Systematic Reviews**

Unsolicited *Systematic Reviews* are accepted for consideration for peer review, provided they represent a topic area of interest to *JNEB* readers and follow accepted methodology.

A *Systematic Review* attempts to identify, appraise, and synthesize all the empirical evidence that meets pre-specified eligibility criteria to answer a given research question. Researchers conducting systematic reviews use explicit methods aimed at minimizing bias in order to produce more reliable findings that can be used to inform decision making (Cochrane Collaboration).
Several guidelines are available for conducting systematic reviews, including those of the Institute of Medicine,\(^1\) Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA),\(^2\) Methodological Expectations of Cochrane Intervention Reviews (MECIR),\(^3\) Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality,\(^4\) and United States Department of Agriculture.\(^5\) The guideline that you choose to follow should be mentioned in the Methods section and referenced.

A **Systematic Review** should have a structured abstract as for **Research Articles**, have 200 words or less, and contain the following sections in the abstract and main body of the paper:

- **Introduction**: Presents the topic and states why a systematic review is needed. The clearly stated objective should be linked to the research question and how the research questions were developed. This may include the PICO process (patient problem or population [P], intervention [I], comparison [C], and outcomes [O]) or another citable research question development process.
- **Methods**: Briefly describes the members of the research team, their areas of expertise (content, systematic review methods, meta-analysis), and their roles in the systematic review. If a research librarian or information specialist is part of the team, this should be noted. Detailed information should be provided on inclusion/exclusion criteria, search strategies, databases, and other search engines or manual methods for identifying articles, article quality evaluation schema (such as the Nutrition Evidence Library quality checklist\(^6\) or GRADE guidelines\(^7\)), type of comparative analysis across articles, summary, and synthesis strategies. When appropriate, please describe who made these decisions, how they were made (consensus, majority, most senior research team member), and the rationale for the final decision. This section should also include a diagram that contains the number of all articles found by the initial search, how many were excluded, and why, in a manner similar to a Consort diagram.
- **Results**: Outlines results clearly and systematically, mentioning or highlighting—but not duplicating—information displayed in tables, and specifies the quality evaluation of articles selected and the synthesis or summary of outcomes. Carefully designed tables and figures are encouraged to showcase results.
- **Discussion**: Compares the results to any previous reviews on this topic. If other reviews are not available, the Discussion should compare key findings to those already reported in the literature. The Discussion should include any limitations of the systematic review, such as publication bias.
- **Implications for Research and Practice**: Concisely states how these findings or major conclusions could be applied to best practices, if they can, and what additional research would strengthen the conclusions or extend the results to larger audiences. Any policy implications should also be included in this section.

Note: Systematic reviews that conclude there is not enough quality research to draw any results are not generally accepted as **Systematic Reviews**. Occasionally these manuscripts may be rewritten as **Perspectives**.

References:

**Perspectives**

*Perspectives* are articles communicating opinions on current issues and controversies in the field. Opinions expressed in *Perspectives* are supported by references. Opposing perspectives are acknowledged. For controversial issues, the Editor-in-Chief may invite articles from others holding alternative opinions for simultaneous or sequential publication.

*Perspectives* have an unstructured abstract written in paragraph form of 100 words or less. The unstructured abstract provides a brief overview of all key aspects of the manuscript. Topics covered in a conventional abstract depend on whether the manuscript describes a program and its evaluation, a new research method, or a review of literature or policy issues. All abstracts begin with a clearly defined purpose or objective and end with conclusions and implications for research, practice, and policy making.

*Perspectives* include the following major sections: Introduction, Discussion, and Implications for Research and Practice. They should not include sections for Methods or Results. Instead, they should employ alternately titled headings that distinguish them from *Research Articles* and *Research Briefs*. Examples include those headings that would present the viewpoint, premise, or argument beyond an introduction—that is, these headings reflect the concept, program, model, or topic about which the authors have a perspective.

The manuscript reviewers are instructed to evaluate the breadth and depth that the authors address the topic, and the appropriateness of the Implications for Research and Practice section, as well as the preceding guidelines.

**GEMs**

*Great Educational Materials* (*GEMs*) are brief descriptions of innovative and useful approaches to nutrition education and behavior. Innovative approaches are novel, creative, and thoughtful, generally not having been published before. *GEMs* describe educational material, including brochures, curricula, videos, websites, apps, materials, or something tangible that teaches to change behavior. *GEMs* may also be an educational process (teaching style or venue). The material or process should be described in enough detail to be replicated, or available (links or sources to be included in NOTES).

A *GEM* describes settings, events, participant recruitment, or key players and behavior change theory. A *GEM* includes some evaluation and should describe the evaluation materials and process as well as outcomes. This evaluation must be more than liking the educational material or process. The evaluation should have a statistical significance but statistics may be less rigorous than for RA or RB.

Photographs or other visual materials may be included to enhance the description.

*GEMs* do not require abstracts. However, please provide 2 to 3 sentences summarizing the educational program or tool being evaluated and the results of the evaluation (50-word limit). This summary will be sent to reviewers and will not be part of the *GEM*'s publication.

*GEMs* include an Introduction, which describes why the program or activity is worth reading about. The body or content of a *GEM* states the target audience and notes the adaptability of the program to different audiences. It also states the purpose/objective of the program/activity, describes how one would implement the program/activity, and explains how the program/activity has been evaluated and with what results. If applicable, it also describes plans for future refinement/use and the application or use of theory and/or models to program design and/or evaluation.

*GEMs* are required to have review by institutional review board (IRB) when data from humans is collected. If no IRB approval was necessary for this research, please add a statement explaining why. In this statement, include which institution reviewed the study and decided that it was exempt from IRB review (institution should be blinded for review). If it was not reviewed by your university or institution, please provide the documentation that pertains to this type of study, deeming it unnecessary to be reviewed. An example of this may be:
"Review by the institutional review board was not required for this study because human subjects were not involved, as per US Department of Health and Human Services guidelines (http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/policy/checklists决策charts.html#c1)."

Examples of best GEMs include:


Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor are timely and succinct expressions of responsible criticism or reaction to material published in recent issues. A Letter to the Editor may also call attention to topics of general interest to readers. Submission of a Letter to the Editor constitutes permission for JNEB to publish it with or without editing and abridgment. Authors of Letters to the Editor must acknowledge financial and other conflicts of interest within the letter. Authors of the articles referred to in Letters to the Editor will be given an opportunity to respond in a letter for simultaneous publication.

JNEB Style and Form

General style and form and writing style

JNEB adheres to the style recommendations outlined in the American Medical Association Manual of Style, 10th edition (http://www.amamanualofstyle.com/). Manuscripts should be written in good scientific English (American or British usage is accepted, but not a mixture of these). Authors who feel their manuscript may not conform to correct scientific English may wish to use the English Language Editing service available from Elsevier (http://webshop.elsevier.com/languageediting/) or use another science editing service.

Please note the following additional style requirements and format manuscripts accordingly before submission:

- Abbreviations, acronyms, and initialisms should be spelled out on first use, with the shortened versions immediately following in parentheses. Example: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Manuscripts should be limited to a total of five acronyms, abbreviations, and initialisms to limit reader confusion. Beyond this, all terms must be spelled out. A list of approved terms that may be used in their abbreviated forms on first use is available here.
- Behavior theories or models mentioned frequently in a manuscript should be abbreviated whenever possible. Example: Social Cognitive Theory (SCT).
- "N" and "n" should be used as follows: "N" indicates a whole population or an epidemiological study; "n" indicates a sample or subpopulation.
- Sentences in unstructured abstracts or in the body of a manuscript may not begin with a numeral. Example: “Four hundred thirty-five parents were surveyed [...]” not “435 parents were surveyed [...]” Sentences in structured abstracts may begin with a numeral (as structured abstracts often contain sentence fragments).
- Decimals should be used only to 1 degree more than the unit of measurement. For whole numbers, decimals need to be rounded to tenths; if precision of measurement is in the tenths, you may use hundredths (eg, with weight measured to the tenth of a pound, means may be expressed as hundredths). Please be sure of your precision: while most software will express results greater than the precision, it is not appropriate to use these figures in tables (eg, 34.1 mg niacin). The exception to this is percentages concerning people. For fewer than 100 people, please round to the nearest whole percentage, eg, 95% of participants (n = 80), rather than 95.3% of participants (n = 80).

The past tense of verbs is used to discuss methods and results, as well as existing literature, with the exception of Research Methods, where the future tense should be used. Present tense is only used to refer to general truths and to state conclusions. Active voice is preferred. Jargon and sexist language should be avoided.

For preferred usage of terms related to race and ethnicity, see the American Medical Association Manual of Style, 10th edition.
Authors should reflect on the race and ethnicity data collected and its purpose in their analyses in order to select appropriate terms. Authors should be consistent throughout the manuscript. "Specifying persons' race or ethnicity can provide information about the generalizability of the results of a specific study. However, because many people in ethnically diverse countries such as the United States, Canada, and some European, South American, and Asian nations have mixed heritage, a racial or ethnic distinction should not be considered absolute, and it is often based on a person's self-designation" (American Medical Association Manual of Style). It is suggested that authors consider including the category options provided to participants to self-classify (example): "Race or ethnicity was self-reported by the parents of the children from a list including non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, Hispanic, Asian or Pacific Islander, Native American (including Alaskan), biracial or multiracial (specify), or other (specify)."

**Statistical Methods**

For general statistical guidelines, please read Guidelines for Statistical Methods for JNEB.

When presenting $P$-values in text, tables, or figures, $P$-values greater than .01 should be reported to 2 decimal places (eg, $P = .03$, $P = .02$, $P = .07$) and those between .01 and .001 to 3 decimal places (eg, $P = .002$, $P = .007$).

$P$-values less than .001 should be reported as $P < .001$.

While a significance level can be set at a value (eg, $P < .05$), the significance of data should not be stated as $P < .05$, but rather the exact $P$-value. All $P$-values (whether significant or not) should be listed in narrative, tables, and figures. For example, authors may have significance set at $P < .05$ in their methodology; when expressing the data for vegetable intake between two samples, for example, write "group A mean intake was 2.0 ± .3 vs. group B mean intake of 0.5 ± 0.7, $P = .02". The $P$-values for all predictor variables in regression should be listed in tables.

The rationale for this decision is derived from input from our statistical reviewers, who believe that the $P$-value is a continuous measure that expresses the compatibility between the study hypothesis and the observed data. Reporting or interpreting $P$-value < .05 as statistical significance with individual data represents a loss of information.

Abstract should include significant values as described above but may reflect nonsignificant data as nonsignificant without a $P$-value.

**Quantitative and Qualitative Research**

Authors have access to reviewer guidelines for both quantitative and qualitative research.

**Key words**

All structured and unstructured abstracts are accompanied by a list of 3 to 5 key words for indexing. Key words are selected from the listing of Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) outlined by MEDLINE (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/MBrowser.html) that are used for indexing in PubMed. To maximize the likelihood that your paper will be identified appropriately by other researchers, educators, and administrators, it is important to choose MeSH key words whenever possible. Choosing non-MeSH terms will make it more difficult for your article to be appropriately cited.

**Tables**

For submission, each table should be saved and uploaded as a separate file. Number tables consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text. If there is only one table, then no number is assigned (eg, "Table"). Format tables as follows:

**Title:** Provide a table number and a descriptive title. Words in the title are capitalized. The title should describe the type of data included and give the sample size (n) unless it varies by measure/variable (in which case, n should be included within the table content).

Example of unacceptable table title: "Descriptive Demographics"
Example of acceptable table title: "Anthropometric and Socioeconomic Data for Adults Enrolled in Healthy Eating Programs (n = 40)"

**Content:** Not all data included in tables needs to be reported within the text of the manuscript. The most important results should be included in the narrative (text), but repeating results that will not be discussed further is discouraged. Bullets should not be used within a table. For qualitative tables, indentation of text may also be used within a section.
**Footnotes:** The order of items within the footnote is as follows: abbreviations, then statistical significance, then statistical test used. Any abbreviation used in the table should be spelled out in the footnote. If not included in the table content, statistical significance should be identified with an asterisk (eg, \*P < .05; \*P < .01; \*P < .001; or \*Significance based on 95% CI). Statistical test used (eg, chi-square, logistic regression) and statistical adjustments made to models should also be identified. The table title, data/content, and footnotes should be complete enough to understand without referring to related text.

**Statistics:** Report means and standard deviations if the data have a normal distribution; report the interquartile range (IQR) and the median if the data are not normally distributed. Standard error of the mean (SEM) should only be used if multiple samples are gathered (eg, groups of schools). Confidence intervals (CIs) may be included as the number (eg, \(P < .05\)) or indicated by an asterisk and footnote (see Footnotes section, above). Superscripted lowercase letters may be used if differences among several groups are to be shown. Differences between 2 or more groups should include a column for \(P\) or an asterisk to indicate significance, where appropriate. Refer to the "General style and form and writing style" section above for guidance on the number of decimals places or significant digits to show in tables.

**Figures and Artwork**

For submission, each figure should be saved and uploaded as a separate file. Number figures consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text. If there is only one figure, then no number is assigned (eg, "Figure"). Format figures as follows:

**Caption:** Figure captions should be presented at the end of the manuscript just after the references (captions should not be attached to the figures themselves). Captions constitute a distinct section of the manuscript and should start on a new page. Ensure that each illustration has a caption. A caption should consist of a brief title and a description of the illustration. Figure captions should be written in sentence format.

Example of unacceptable caption: “Body Mass Index (BMI) versus calories.”
Example of acceptable caption: “Body Mass Index (BMI) versus calories consumed after 3-month intervention with 10- to 12-year-olds.”

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A detailed guide on electronic artwork is available at https://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions. If figures do not meet these guidelines and do not appear to be clearly reproducible, they will be returned to authors with a request for new figures at any stage of publication.

Consort diagrams should be used to explain recruitment/enrollment/retention of subjects for any intervention (see Williams-Piehotta et al. JNEB 2009;41:398-405). Other appropriate figures include maps (see Stone. JNEB 2011;43:S148-S151), scatter grams for continuous data, bar graphs for categorical data (eg, body mass index by gender), and diagrams for spatial and conceptual relationships, such as the Social Ecological Model.

For GEMs, it is preferred that authors use 1 to 2 figures that enhance the GEM description (photos should meet this requirement and not simply show authors or participants). Figures must also be referred to within the text. For recognizable photo(s), you must have release form(s) from the subject(s).

In order to maintain a clear separation between the author and any other agency, the editors require that all figures, tables, and photographs be submitted directly by the contributing author and no other source.
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Each new reference introduced in the text is numbered sequentially. The reference number appears superscripted immediately following related text. The reference list is double-spaced and numbered to correspond with citations in text. Reference style follows the system described in the American Medical Association Manual of Style, 10th edition, except that issue numbers are not included in journal references. MEDLINE abbreviations are used for periodical titles. If a standard abbreviation is not available on MEDLINE, cite the full title. Note that the format of journal references is flexible if authors include a DOI within the citation in the references section. Examples of different reference types follow:

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Software used for data analysis should be cited in text only. Citations should include the software's name and developer, the developer's location, and the year the version used was released. Example: (SPSS version 15.0, SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, 2007) or SurveyMonkey Pro (SurveyMonkey.com, LLC, Palo Alto, CA).

Likewise, equipment used in data collection should be cited in text only. Citations should include the equipment's model name and developer, the developer's location, and the year the model used was released. Example: stadiometer (SECA model 222, SECA Corp., Hamburg, Germany, 2008).
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Footnotes are not permitted except in tables. In tables, footnotes are superscripted; lowercase letters (or other common designators) are used to indicate significant differences within rows (see the "Tables" section, above).

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Data collection instruments such as tests, surveys, interview scripts, and observation forms used in the study may be included with submissions along with overlapping or related manuscripts in review, in press, or published. Including these materials with the original submission will expedite review of the manuscript. Reviewers will have access to data collection materials (ie, ancillary materials) but not to related or overlapping manuscripts included in the submission. It should be noted that ancillary materials are for the review process only; they will not be published.

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Practice Points present the practical implications of the research reported in the article—the "take home" message—that readers can put to use in their own practice. Examples include:

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- Avoid "you should" and "you need to" in messages for teens (see Hingle et al. JNEB 2013;45:12-19)

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Submission, Peer-Review, and Publication Process

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AFTER ACCEPTANCE

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