DESCRIPTION

An official journal of the The Royal Society for Public Health and a sister journal of Public Health.

Public Health in Practice is a gold open access journal in the field of population health. The journal will accept papers from across the broad public health subject area, with a particular focus on public health in practice, emerging topics, and policy debates.

The journal will publish research study types, from study protocols through to meta-analyses, including commentaries and case reports. Whilst research focusing on the practical basis of public health delivery or providing a foundational understanding of theoretical issues in the field is the journal's core interest, robust and ethically sound articles on any public health topic are welcome.

These can include (but are not limited to):

- Public health practice and impact
- Applied epidemiology
- Need or impact assessments
- Health service effectiveness, management and re-design
- Health protection including control of communicable diseases
- Health promotion and disease prevention
- Evaluation of public health programmes or interventions
- Public health governance, audit and quality
- Public health law and ethics
- Public health policy and comparisons
- Capacity in public health systems and workforce

The target market of the journal is researchers, practitioners, and policymakers who are engaged in public health practice, teaching, and research.

Public Health in Practice adheres to strict ethical publication guidelines and actively supports a culture of inclusive and representative publication. For any submission enquiries, please contact the Editorial Office.

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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

Aims
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Scope
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Impact on Practice
Papers describing original research impacting on public health practice are particularly encouraged. Those describing a particular event (e.g. an outbreak of infectious disease) should be submitted as soon as possible. Fast track publication of suitable articles is possible; please contact the Editorial Office regarding this.

Papers are invited from anywhere in the world, and so authors are asked to ensure that sufficient context is provided for all readers to appreciate their contribution.

Types of paper
Public Health in Practice accepts the following types of submission:
Original Research (Regular Papers)
Review Articles
Case Reports
Short Communication
Commentaries
Letter to the Editor
Editorial

Contact details for submission
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The Royal Society for Public Health
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Tel: +44 (0)20 3177 1632
Fax: +44 (0)20 3177 1601
E-mail: puhip@rsph.org.uk

**Language**
The official language of *Public Health in Practice* is British English. Support may be made available to overseas authors whose first language is not English.

**Submission checklist**
You can use this list to carry out a final check of your submission before you send it to the journal for review. Please check the relevant section in this Guide for Authors for more details.

**Ensure that the following items are present:**

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- E-mail address
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All necessary files have been uploaded:
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- All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)
- Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided
- Indicate clearly if color should be used for any figures in print
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Authors should include a statement in the manuscript that informed consent was obtained for experimentation with human subjects. The privacy rights of human subjects must always be observed.

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Author contributions

For transparency, we encourage authors to submit an author statement file outlining their individual contributions to the paper using the relevant CRediT roles: Conceptualization; Data curation; Formal analysis; Funding acquisition; Investigation; Methodology; Project administration; Resources; Software; Supervision; Validation; Visualization; Roles/Writing - original draft; Writing - review & editing. Authorship statements should be formatted with the names of authors first and CRediT role(s) following. More details and an example

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In line with the position of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, the journal will not consider results posted in the same clinical trials registry in which primary registration resides to be prior publication if the results posted are presented in the form of a brief structured (less than 500 words) abstract or table. However, divulging results in other circumstances (e.g., investors' meetings) is discouraged and may jeopardise consideration of the manuscript. Authors should fully disclose all posting in registries of results of the same or closely related work.
Registration of clinical trials
Registration in a public trials registry is a condition for publication of clinical trials in this journal in accordance with International Committee of Medical Journal Editors recommendations. Trials must register at or before the onset of patient enrolment. The clinical trial registration number should be included at the end of the abstract of the article. A clinical trial is defined as any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects of health outcomes. Health-related interventions include any intervention used to modify a biomedical or health-related outcome (for example drugs, surgical procedures, devices, behavioural treatments, dietary interventions, and process-of-care changes). Health outcomes include any biomedical or health-related measures obtained in patients or participants, including pharmacokinetic measures and adverse events. Purely observational studies (those in which the assignment of the medical intervention is not at the discretion of the investigator) will not require registration.

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**Submission**

Our online submission system guides you stepwise through the process of entering your article details and uploading your files. The system converts your article files to a single PDF file used in the peer-review process. Editable files (e.g., Word, LaTeX) are required to typeset your article for final publication. All correspondence, including notification of the Editor's decision and requests for revision, is sent by e-mail.

**Submission process**

Papers submitted to *Public Health in Practice* are carefully reviewed in the first instance by one of the Editors. Papers that do not meet editorial needs; are methodically flawed; or lack originality will be rejected. We will also reject papers that fail to provide sufficient ethical approval where required and we shall refer papers back for revision prior to any review if they do not comply with Journal style.

Papers which pass the Editorial review will be sent out to peer-review and will be reviewed by at least two external reviewers (short communications will only be sent to one reviewer). Reviewers are asked to consider whether the paper: contains new research findings or information; is relevant to public health practice, is technically sound; and is suitably presented.

**PREPARATION**

**Double-blind review**

This journal uses double-blind review, which means the identities of the authors are concealed from the reviewers, and vice versa. More information is available on our website. To facilitate this, please include the following separately:

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*Blinded manuscript (no author details)*: The main body of the paper (including the references, figures, tables and any acknowledgements) should not include any identifying information, such as the authors' names or affiliations.

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It is important that the file be saved in the native format of the word processor used. The text should be in single-column format. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. In particular, do not use the word processor's options to justify text or to hyphenate words. However, do use bold face, italics, subscripts, superscripts etc. When preparing tables, if you are using a table grid, use only one grid for each individual table and not a grid for each row. If no grid is used, use tabs, not spaces, to align columns. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the Guide to Publishing with Elsevier). Note that source files of figures, tables and text graphics will be required whether or not you embed your figures in the text. See also the section on Electronic artwork.

To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

**Article structure**

**Original research, including evaluation papers**

Click here for an example

Papers should be clear, precise and logical and should not normally exceed 3,000 words.

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Covering letter-the letter must contain: why the submission is appropriate for publication in Public Health; what is known about the topic discussed; what your study adds; and confirmation that the paper has not been published elsewhere. Title page- bearing title, all authors' initials, surname, main degrees (two only) and the name and location of the institution(s) where the work was done. The
author to whom proofs and correspondence should be sent should be clearly indicated with correct address, e-mail, telephone and fax details. Abstract. This should be structured under the following headings:
Objectives
Study design
Methods
Results
Conclusions
Keywords. 3-6 keywords should follow the abstract Introduction Methods Results Discussion
Acknowledgements including declarations: Statements of ethical approval, funding and competing interests (see section above) References (see section below)

A short communication is preferred for the submission of important preliminary observations or data that does not warrant publication as a full paper. Short communications should be approximately 500-1500 words in length and provide adequate information to allow for the same peer review given to other submissions.
A structured abstract will be required during the online submission process. Keywords will also be required. However, specific sections, such as Methods, should not be used in the manuscript itself. A short communication can include one table or figure and up to 10 references. Preliminary data published as a short communication will not preclude subsequent publication of more complete results if the work is significantly expanded.

Review papers

Systematic Review papers presenting exhaustive, critical assessments of the published literature on relevant public health topics or questions will be considered. Such reviews should be prepared in strict compliance with MOOSE or PRISMA guidelines or with Cochrane's complementary guidelines for systematic reviews of health promotion and public health interventions, as appropriate. Public Health encourages authors to use alternative databases covering scientific literature from low- and middle-income countries not indexed in the traditional international databases (i.e. Medline, Web of Science). All systematic reviews need to be submitted with a supporting statement of which guideline has been used in the preparation of the review.

Narrative Review papers will be considered by Public Health in Practice. Whilst no formal guidelines for such reviews exist, authors should be very clear in what criteria they have used for the selection of studies and describe the methods used to undertake the review in the body of the paper. Generally speaking, narrative reviews will only be considered where the author(s) are clearly experts in the research field under consideration or the public health issue under consideration is not amenable to systematic review. The reviews needs to be submitted with a supporting statement justifying the appropriateness of undertaking a narrative review.

Review papers should not exceed 3000 words. They should include a Structured Abstract: Tables/ Illustrations can be included up to a maximum of 5, though larger tables may be included only on the electronic version of the paper.

References: up to a maximum of 100.

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References: up to a maximum of 100.

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Readers are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editors and these can include responses to previously published papers or original data.

Authors will be given the opportunity to comment and respond to any correspondence we intend to include in the Letters to the Editors regarding their previously published manuscript.

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PUHIP welcomes the submission of commentaries and opinion pieces. Such articles are intended to comment on existing articles/books/reports or scientific theory. In general they highlight strengths and weakness and be backed by existing evidence. They may include a call to action. They SHOULD NOT include unpublished or original data. As a guide they should be short (around 1500 words) with no figures or tables. This article type will not be externally peer reviewed - a decision will be taken by the Editor-in-Chief regarding their suitability for publication. Note: articles published in this section do not necessarily represent the views of the journal, the journal's editorial team, or the Royal Society for Public Health.

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Acknowledgements
Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references and do not, therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

Formatting of funding sources
List funding sources in this standard way to facilitate compliance to funder's requirements:

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List: Number the references in the list in the order in which they appear in the text.

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Note shortened form for last page number. e.g., 51–9, and that for more than 6 authors the first 6 should be listed followed by 'et al.' For further details you are referred to 'Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts submitted to Biomedical Journals' (J Am Med Assoc 1997;277:927–34)(see also Samples of Formatted References).

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