

## **AIMS & SCOPE**

*Public Health Nursing* aims to provide worldwide access to timely research and practice features of use to public health nurses, administrators, and educators in the field of public health nursing.

Its scope is the range of population-based concerns and interventions in which nurses are involved. The journal emphasizes scholarship on vulnerable populations. Articles include research studies, program evaluations, practice concepts, and educational features published with the goal of replication and development, and theory, education, methods, policy, and ethical and legal papers that stimulate discussion and public debate. Authors from all disciplines are invited to submit manuscripts relevant to public health nursing. Authors who have questions about the appropriateness of a manuscript for publication in this journal are encouraged to communicate with the Editor prior to submission.

**Questions about the submission or peer review process can be directed to the Managing Editor, Meaghan McDonnell, at [phn-admin@wiley.com](mailto:phn-admin@wiley.com).**

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**Sufficient Participation.** *Public Health Nursing* adheres to the Vancouver Guidelines on authorship, as defined in the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors' (ICMJE) Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals. Guidelines specify that authorship credit is based on (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 (4) agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

When authorship of a single manuscript exceeds six authors, the editor may require additional information about the contributions of each. The editor discourages submission of papers written for class assignments by individual or groups of students.

**Submission.** Manuscripts must be submitted online through the *Public Health Nursing* Manuscript Central website: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/phn>. All submissions receive an initial review by the editorial office and the editor to determine if they are appropriate to send out for peer review. Authors will typically be notified within two weeks if their manuscript will not be sent out for review. Final publication decisions remain the responsibility of the editor.

**Originality.** Manuscripts that contain original, previously unpublished material will be considered for publication. The essential content of the article, including tables and figures, may not be submitted for publication elsewhere before a publication decision is made by this journal. Secondary publication may be considered when a paper, in the judgment of the Editor, is intended for a different group of readers, and following approval from the editors of both journals prior to

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**Anonymity.** Manuscripts must be completely "blinded" and will not be accepted for review if they contain information that could identify the author(s). No author or institution name may appear in the file name, file description area, title page or any section of the text, e.g., in the discussion of human subjects' protection. No acknowledgements or correspondence to the Editor or Reviewers may be included in the main manuscript file. Include this information on a separate title page.

**English Language.** *Public Health Nursing* welcomes international submissions. However, all articles published in the journal must conform to grammatical and syntactical conventions common to most English-speaking readers. Authors for whom English is a second language may choose to have their manuscript professionally edited before submission to improve the English. Ensure your paper is clearly written in standard, scientific English language appropriate to your discipline. Visit our site <http://wileyeditingservices.com> to learn about the options.

Please note that using the Wiley English Language Editing Service does not guarantee that your paper will be accepted by this journal. All services are paid for and arranged by the author, and use of one of these services does not guarantee acceptance or preference for publication.

**Manuscript Types.** Authors should specify a Manuscript Type for each submission, depending on its content. Manuscripts must be shorter than 5000 words (text & references), with no more than 5 tables or figures. Letters to the Editor must be shorter than 1000 words and include no graphics.

**1. Populations at Risk Across the Lifespan** manuscripts describe the distribution, risk, or outcomes of health determinants in a specific population. The discussion must focus on implications for practice or theory in public health nursing.

- **Population studies** are based on representative samples of at-risk persons and provide either estimates of prevalence or risk or information about the experience of being at-risk or the impact of beliefs, values, or interventions on health behavior.
- **Program evaluations** use research methods to test the process or outcomes of primary, secondary, or tertiary public health prevention programs that target specific at-risk populations. Evaluations should include assessment of intervention adequacy, progress, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and/or sustainability.
- **Case reports** include research studies of convenience or other non-representative samples, pilot projects, and analyses of the characteristics of at-risk groups.

**2. Special Features** manuscripts are as follows.

- **Clinical Concepts** describe the organization, delivery, or financing of public health nursing services, including exemplary practices in population-focused health care.

- **Health Policy** papers analyze the social, economic, political, and environmental factors that influence public policy related to health care, including public health nursing and nursing education.
- **Law and Ethics** papers address moral issues, principles, and standards of conduct as they relate to providing or receiving care, professionalism, and standards of practice, including court decisions affecting public health.
- **Theory papers** concern the development, testing, and critique of theoretical constructs and conceptual frameworks used to inform public health nursing practice or education.
- **Education** papers describe or test academic program models, curricula, teaching methods, and educational outcomes with implications for replication in other institutions/settings, including those related to professional credentialing.
- **Methods** papers include measurement studies, presentation of new analytical strategies, strategies to address population sampling, research subject recruitment, or retention, information about novel settings for research, and other matters pertaining to the conduct of scientific inquiry in public health.

**3. History** manuscripts concern any aspect of the development of public health nursing or the role of nurses in the evolution of population-based care in any country, including original historical research, critical analyses of past events or trends, and oral histories or biographies.

**4. Letters to the Editor** address timely issues or reflect on the content of the journal.

**Manuscript Formatting.** *Public Health Nursing* uses the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association Sixth Edition (2010) as its sole editorial style guideline. Excerpts from the manual can be found at: <http://www.apastyle.org>

- Use a word processing program.
- Use "letter size" paper (8.5" x 11").
- Double-space the entire manuscript file including references
- Use 12-point size font
- Use one-inch margins all around.
- Flush-left the manuscript file. Do not use justified alignment.
- Use a 0.5" indent for all paragraphs.

**Title Page (Supplementary file with Author info).** A separate title page must be uploaded that includes each author's full name, highest degrees, job title, and academic affiliations. A corresponding author must be designated, with name, address, telephone, and e-mail address.

The manuscript title and running head (short title) should also be included in your main text file.

**Abstract.** For Research Studies, a structured abstract of no more than 200 words must be provided. Headings to include: Objective(s), Design, Sample, Measurements, Intervention (if any), Results, and Conclusions.

All other manuscripts should have a narrative abstract. No abstract required for Letters to the Editor.

**Key words.** When selecting keywords, use MeSH or CINAHL subject headings (evidence shows that abstracts that use these result in more "hits" than abstracts that do not). Incorporate keywords into the abstract to increase the likelihood of other authors identifying your paper for citation.

### **Manuscript Text.**

Research studies must include the following headings:

- Background (key publications and their significance for the topic) and Research Questions or Hypotheses.
- Methods headings: Design and Sample, Measures, and Analytic Strategy.
- Results: headings at the discretion of the authors to summarize of findings from the analytic strategy.
- Discussion: headings at the discretion of the authors to state new findings, compare and contrast previous best evidence, present limitations of the study, recommendations for future research, and implications for public health nursing. Avoid unqualified conclusions and over-interpretation of the findings.
- Non-research manuscripts vary in structure according to topic.

**Tables.** Summarize results of analysis and (where appropriate) estimates of effect (odds ratios, relative risk, rates, and means) with their confidence intervals. Format tables with horizontal lines only above and below column headings and at the end of the table. Do not use vertical lines. If a table exceeds one page, repeat all column heads and the stub (left hand column). Double-space tables. Explain abbreviations in a footnote. Title each table with an Arabic number and title. In text, refer to tables by their numbers.

**Figures.** Use illustrations, e.g., graphs, charts, flow sheets, and diagrams, to represent concepts, data, persons or events that cannot be adequately conveyed in text or enhance understanding of textual material.

Submit one set of original illustrations in electronic form only. Do not embed prints or images in word processing files. Color photographs must be saved in CMYK as TIF or JPG files at 300dpi at 5inches (12.5cm) in width. Black and white photographs must be saved in greyscale as TIF files at 300dpi at 5 inches (12.5cm) in width. Line drawings can be prepared in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, or Adobe Illustrator but without embedded images from other sources.

Each figure must be uploaded separately. Cite each figure in text by its number. If a figure has been previously published, the author is responsible for obtaining permission in writing for its use in this

journal, regardless of authorship or publisher. Acknowledgment of the original source must be included in the legend. Authors must also obtain written release for publication of any photographs of living individuals, whether previously published or not.

**Figure Captions.** Each figure must have a corresponding caption but captions should not be embedded in the image file. Instead, please include a list of figure captions at the end of your manuscript file. Number each legend with an Arabic numeral to correspond to the figure as it appears in the text. Explain all symbols, arrows, numbers, or letters used in the figure.

**References.** Use the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association Sixth Edition (2010) for citation and reference style requirements. Excerpts from the Manual can be found at: <http://www.apastyle.org>, and examples can be found below.

- Include all references cited in the manuscript text.
- Alphabetize all references by the last name of the first author. Do not number references.
- The first line of each reference should begin flush with the left margin; subsequent line(s) should be indented 0.5”.

### **Examples of references in APA style**

*Journal article, multiple authors:*

May, K. M., Phillips, L. R., Ferketich, S. L., & Verran, J. A. (2003). Public health nursing: The generalist in a specialized environment. *Public Health Nursing, 20*(4), 252-259.

*Chapter in edited book, multiple editors:*

Styles, M. M. & Lewis, C. K. (2000). Conceptualizations of advanced nursing practice. In A. B. Hamric, J. A. Spross, & C. M. Hanson, (Eds.), *Advanced nursing practice: An integrative approach* (pp. 33-51). Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders.

*Online document:*

World Health Organization (2003). Stories of tragedy and hope: Access to treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS. Retrieved September 24, 2003 from <http://www.who.int/features/2003/09/en/>

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