Instructions for Authors

*Health Education & Behavior* publishes authoritative empirical research and commentary on critical health issues of interest to a broad range of professionals whose work involves understanding factors associated with health behavior and evidence-based social and behavioral strategies to improve health status. The journal audience consists primarily of researchers and practitioners in health education and health promotion. Typical manuscripts published in the journal include reports of empirical research using qualitative or quantitative methods; formative, process, and outcome evaluations; and literature reviews.

We encourage authors to read *Taking Quantitative Data Analysis Out of the Positivist Era: Calling for Theory-Driven Data-Informed Analysis* by Dr. Haardörfer. This article provides insights on how we frame research, theory, and data analysis.

We also expect submitting authors to follow the *Equator Network Reporting Guidelines* in preparing their manuscripts.

Categories of Manuscripts

*Health Education & Behavior* invites, considers, and publishes manuscripts in the following categories:

Commentary and Perspective: The journal invites and reviews both solicited and unsolicited commentaries on controversial topics, methodological issues, and theory of up to 2,500\(^1\) words of text (abstract of up to 150 words), plus references. Editorials of up to 1,200 words (no abstract) are solicited by the editor.

Full-Length Original Articles: Full-length original articles comprise reports of empirical research and other studies of up to 4,000\(^1\) words of text (abstract of up to 250 words), plus tables and figures, and references.

Review Articles: Review articles present state-of-the-science literature reviews of up to 4,000\(^1\) words of text (abstract of up to 250 words), plus tables and figures, and references.

Brief Reports: Brief reports comprise manuscripts reporting empirical research or other studies (including promising pilot studies) that can be up to 2,000\(^1\) words of text (abstract of up to 150 words) and no more than 2 tables and/or figures, plus up to 15 references.

Policy and Environmental Change Articles: Manuscripts that focus solely on reporting theory, methodological issues, and results of innovative policy, environmental and other structural change approaches to improving population health are encouraged and can be up to 3,500\(^1\) words of text (abstract of up to 250 words), plus tables and figures, and references.

Manuscript Submission Requirements

All manuscripts should be submitted online at the *Health Education & Behavior* submission portal at [http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/heb](http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/heb). The site contains detailed instructions on how to submit and track the progression of a manuscript through the review process. All manuscripts will be assigned a manuscript number, and authors will receive email confirmation acknowledging receipt of submission.

\(^1\)The word count applies only to body of the manuscript, e.g., the introduction, methods, results, and discussion; the abstract, tables, figures, and references are not included in the word count.
Authors should not transmit hard copies of their manuscripts to the journal office. Inquiries regarding a manuscript or the journal should be directed to info@sophe.org.

Cover letter: Authors have the option to accompany their submission with a cover letter to the editor.

Title Page & Acknowledgements: The title page should include the title of the manuscript, author names, degrees, and affiliations, and any acknowledgements, funding information or conflict of interest statements the authors wish to include with the manuscript. The title page should be uploaded as a separate document with the words “title_page” in the document name. All titles should be no more than 14 words.

The Manuscript

Style and format: All manuscripts should be prepared in accordance with the style and format requirements of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th edition). The manuscript, including captions, footnotes, tables, and references, must be double-spaced with 1-inch margins in a 12-point font. The elements of a manuscript should include: abstract, impact statement, body of text, references, and tables, figures or other graphic images.

Title: The title should stand alone as the first page of the manuscript. (Note: Author information and any acknowledgements should not be included with the title. These are to be uploaded as a separate Title Page and Acknowledgements document. See above for details.)

Abstract: Write an informative abstract of up to 250 words, followed by no more than 6 keywords. The abstract should be a standalone narrative of the work. While it does not have to be structured in explicitly defined sections, e.g., Background, Aims, Methods, Results, Conclusions, it must follow such logical narrative. It must address these questions:
1. What is the problem addressed?
2. What does this report add to the literature?
3. What are the implications for public health research and/or practice?
Avoid citing references, abbreviations, and detailed statistics (e.g., p-values, means). State clearly the methodology employed (e.g., qualitative and quantitative), the sample size (if relevant) and the analysis (e.g., conversation analysis, structural equation modeling).
The abstract and the keywords should be easy to discover through search engines.

Body of text: Introduction, methods, results, and discussion (including limitations and strengths and implications for theory, policy, and/or practice).

References: All references should be prepared in accordance with the format and style requirements of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th edition). References to unpublished material are discouraged. Footnotes to the text should be avoided. For further information on how to format citations and references, please consult the APA Style tutorial at: http://www.apastyle.org/learn/tutorials/basics-tutorial.aspx

Tables and figures: A total of five tables and figures are permitted with the submitted manuscript. All tables, figures, and graphic images should be cited sequentially in text, serially numbered, and accompanied by explanatory captions, and constructed in accordance with the style and format requirements of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th edition). Do not include tables and figures within the body of the manuscript; tables and figures can be included at the end of the document immediately following the reference list or uploaded in separate document files. Tables should be editable. All figures, illustrations, graphics, and photographs should be supplied with the highest quality original electronic format. All files should follow the SAGE artwork guidelines contained at the SAGE Manuscript Submission Guidelines.
Human Participants and Institutional Review Board: All studies involving data collection with human participants must document that approval was received from an appropriate institutional review board. It must be stated in writing, blinded in the Methods section or named in the cover letter, that the study protocol was approved by a review committee on the protection of human participants or its equivalent.

Language and other requirements: Manuscripts must be submitted in English. Authors should refrain from using the term subjects when describing or referring to human research participants. Alternative terms such as respondents, research participants, or some other more specific designation (e.g., youth, females, patients, or residents) should be used. In addition, each manuscript reporting empirical research that is submitted is expected to include implications for theory, policy, and/or practice in the discussion section.

Reporting standards: Health Education & Behavior has adopted guidelines for reporting standards that have been developed in recent years and promulgated by several groups. Manuscripts reporting the results of an intervention that has been evaluated should provide a detailed description of the intervention in the methods section. Health Education & Behavior strongly encourages authors to utilize the checklist and guide that have been provided by Hoffmann et al. (2014) for reporting descriptions of interventions. Reports of randomized controlled trials should adhere to the Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT) Statement (Rennie, 2001) and reports of evaluations with nonrandomized designs should adhere to the requirements of the Transparent Reporting of Evaluation with Nonrandomized Designs (TREND) (Des Jarlais, Lyles, Crepaz, & the TREND Group, 2004). Health Education & Behavior also expects manuscripts reporting the results of systematic reviews and meta-analytic reports to adhere to the requirements for Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) (Moher, Liberati, Tetzlaff, & Altman, 2009). Submitting authors are also encouraged to adhere to the NIH OBSSR guidelines on conducting mixed methods research when reporting such studies (OBSSR NIH Best Practices for Mixed Methods Research).

Appendices and supplemental material: Appendices should not be included in the manuscript. However, appendices containing questionnaires and instruments, intervention materials, supplemental data analyses, or other materials or information that are proposed by the authors(s) and deemed to be valuable by the editor may be made available for public access via links to a section for such material at the Health Education & Behavior website. Extensive appendices and supplemental material intended for online-only display should be clearly marked with “online supp” in the file name.

Author Checklist

☐ Cover letter
☐ Title and Acknowledgements (uploaded as separate file from the abstract and manuscript)
☐ Title (14 words or less) and Abstract (250 words)
☐ Manuscript (Original Articles, 4,000 words; Reviews, 4,000 words; Brief Reports, 2,000 words)
☐ References (APA format)
☐ Tables and figures (a total of five, placed at the end of the manuscript document, following the reference list, or uploaded as separate editable files, with figures and any artwork contained in a file of the highest resolution available and in accordance with SAGE artwork guidelines)
☐ Manuscript submission is double-spaced, 12-point font with 1-inch margins
☐ Appendices and supplemental material (if any) is uploaded in separate files and labeled “online supp” in the file name

Revised Manuscripts

Revised manuscripts should follow the formatting requirements described above. Changes to revised and resubmitted manuscripts should be noted within the document with tracked changes in MS Word or by other means (e.g., use of bold font or color-highlighted text).
In addition to a copy of your manuscript with tracked changes or other marks, authors must submit a clean copy of the manuscript with no editing marks and all tracked changes accepted. This clean copy will be used for production if your revised manuscript is accepted for publication.

A separate point-by-point “Response to Reviewers” should be included when transmitting a revised submission. When submitting the revised manuscript, authors will be able to respond to the comments made by reviewer(s). This response can be entered into the space provided or uploaded as a separate document. In order to expedite the processing of the revised manuscript, please be as specific as possible in your response to the reviewer(s).

Note: Health Education & Behavior adheres to a rigorous double-blind reviewing policy in which the identity of both the author(s) and reviewer(s) are always concealed from both parties. The response to reviewers should be a blinded document, and should not contain author names, contact information, or any other identifying information.

Memorials
Brief writings in memory of distinguished persons in the field are by invitation only. We do not accept unsolicited contributions; however, we welcome suggestions.

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When a large, multicenter group has conducted the work, the authors should identify the individuals who accept direct responsibility for the manuscript. These individuals should fully meet the criteria for authorship.

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Please ensure that a “Declaration of Conflicting Interests” statement is included at the end of your manuscript, after any acknowledgements and prior to the references. If no conflict exists, please state that “The Author(s) declare(s) that there is no conflict of interest”.

Research Ethics, Use of Human Subjects, and Informed Consent

Research reported in the journal should comply with ethical principles that are contained in the American Psychological Association Ethical Guidelines for Research With Human Subjects, the Declaration of Helsinki Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects (Williams, 2008), and the Unified Code of Ethics for the Health Education Profession (Capwell, Smith, Shirreffs, & Olsen, 2000).

Medical research involving human subjects must be conducted according to the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki.

Submitted manuscripts should conform to the ICMJE Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals, and all manuscripts reporting animal and/or human studies must state in the methods section that the relevant Ethics Committee or Institutional Review Board provided (or waived) approval. Please ensure that you have provided the full name and institution of the review committee, in addition to the approval number.

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References


