



PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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A Call for Papers: Writing for Public Health

Public Health Reports (PHR) invites submitted articles on the general topic of writing in public health. The journal seeks articles on 1) the state of writing quality in public health schools and programs, private industry and institutions, and government agencies, 2) the writing environment, such as the factors that enable or encourage public health practitioners, researchers, teachers, and students to write for publication, 3) writing for public health in different genres, such as scholarly writing, consumer communications, government reports, and advocacy documents, 4) the teaching of writing in schools and programs of public health and government agencies in the United States or other countries, such as approaches, methods, innovations, the use of technology, and standards used for writing competency, 5) writing pedagogy (e.g., composition and rhetoric) in the academy outside public health, such as in secondary and undergraduate schools, and its application to writing for public health, 6) the history of writing training in public health schools and government agencies, 7) commentaries or opinion essays on any of the foregoing topics, or 8) other topics related to writing for public health.

The ability to write effectively has always been part of public health practice, whether at a government agency, a university, or a commercial company. At government agencies, workers must communicate well in different genres, such as scholarly articles, official reports, postings on the Internet and social media, and memoranda and emails. At universities, competent writing is at the core of successful scholarly publishing, grant applications, and teaching. In private industry, effective writing is fundamental to commercial success. In recent years, public health schools and government agencies have had increasing concerns about students' and employees' ability to write effectively (1). Many schools have established writing instruction programs (2).

In 2017, ASPPH established the Riegelman Writing in Public Health Initiative at the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH), a result of the efforts of Dr. Richard K. Riegelman, Professor and Founding Dean of the Milken Institute School of Public Health at the George Washington University. ASPPH established an advisory committee made up of public health and writing experts to study the issue and consider solutions. As part of this activity, PHR established a new department in the journal called "Writing for Public Health." This call for papers invites submissions to this new department.

Authors should follow the PHR submission guidelines available at <https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/public-health-reports/journal202574#submission-guidelines>. Interested authors may send queries about potential articles to Dr. Frederic E. Shaw, the Editor in Chief of the journal, at fshaw@cdc.gov. For further information, contact Dr. Shaw or the Managing Editor, Dr. Andrey Kuzmichev, at Andrey.Kuzmichev@hhs.gov.

PHR is the official journal of the Office of the US Surgeon General and the US Public Health Service. The journal is published through an agreement with ASPPH. PHR's mission is to facilitate the movement of science into public health practice and policy to positively affect the health and wellness of the American public.

References:

1. Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health. ASPPH Member writing survey report: a project of the ASPPH Riegelman Writing Advisory Group. February 8, 2018. Available at https://s3.amazonaws.com/ASPPH_Media_Files/Docs/ASPPHWritingSurveyReport_Final.pdf.
2. Mackenzie SLC. Writing for public health: strategies for teaching writing in a school or program of public health. *Public Health Rep* 2018. Published July 16, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0033354918785374>.