



Author Guidelines

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1. Journal Scope and Aims

Purpose

The Journal of Medical Sociology and Public Health publishes high-quality, peer-reviewed research at the intersection of medical sociology, epidemiology, and public health. The journal's mission is to advance knowledge on social determinants of health, population health, health inequities, and health systems, with a focus on translating research into policy and practice.

Focus Areas

The journal prioritizes studies that:

1. Examine social determinants of health and their impact on health outcomes (income, education, occupation, neighborhood, racial/ethnic segregation).
2. Investigate health behaviors, population-level epidemiology, and health systems.
3. Address health inequities and disparities, including structural and systemic factors.
4. Integrate sociological theory with public health practice.
5. Develop or evaluate interventions, policies, or health programs at community, national, or global levels.

Target Audience

- Researchers in medical sociology, public health, epidemiology, and social sciences.
- Health policy makers, practitioners, and program managers.
- Interdisciplinary scholars bridging social and biomedical sciences.

Types of Manuscripts Accepted

- **Original Research:** Empirical studies using quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-method designs.
- **Review Articles:** Systematic, scoping, or narrative reviews synthesizing literature and advancing understanding.
- **Short Communications:** Brief reports of preliminary or timely research findings.
- **Case Studies / Reports:** Detailed descriptions of individual or group health cases with sociological insights.
- **Theoretical / Conceptual Papers:** Innovative frameworks integrating sociology and public health.
- **Policy Briefs:** Evidence-based analysis of policy or program implementation.

Standards and References

All submissions should adhere to widely recognized academic and reporting standards:

- **STROBE Statement** – Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology
- **CONSORT Guidelines** – For randomized controlled trials
- **ICMJE Recommendations** – For manuscript preparation, authorship, and reporting
- **PRISMA** – For systematic reviews and meta-analyses

Rationale / Evidence-Based Justification

- Addressing **social determinants of health** is essential for understanding population health outcomes and health inequities
- Integration of **sociology and epidemiology** improves understanding of structural and behavioral influences on health.
- Following **standardized reporting frameworks** ensures transparency, reproducibility, and credibility in research, aligning with COPE and ICMJE guidelines.

Practical Notes for Authors

- Manuscripts must clearly state how the study contributes to **medical sociology and public health knowledge**.
- Research should aim to **inform practice, policy, or future research directions**.
- Interdisciplinary studies that **bridge sociology and epidemiology** are strongly encouraged.

2. Manuscript Types and Requirements

The Journal of Medical Sociology and Public Health accepts a range of manuscript types to reflect the diversity of research and scholarship in medical sociology and public health. Each type has specific requirements for word count, abstract format, keywords, figures/tables, and ethical considerations.

2.1 Original Research Articles

Purpose: Present empirical studies with clear methodology and robust analysis.

Requirements:

- Word Limit: 2,000–6,000 words (excluding references, tables, and figures)

- Abstract: Structured, max 250 words
 - Sections: Background, Methods, Results, Conclusion
 - Must clearly state research question, methodology, key results, and implications
- Keywords: 5–7 relevant terms, including population, exposure, and outcome
 - Figures/Tables: Maximum 6 combined
 - Other Requirements:
 - Ethics approval statement
 - Data availability statement
 - Funding disclosure

2.2 Review Articles

Purpose: Synthesize and critically evaluate existing literature to provide a comprehensive understanding of a topic.

Requirements:

- Word Limit: 2,000–8,000 words
- Abstract: Unstructured, max 250 words
- Keywords: 5–7
- Figures/Tables: Maximum 8
- Other Requirements:

- Systematic reviews must follow PRISMA guidelines
- Include search strategy, databases used, and selection criteria

2.3 Short Communications

Purpose: Rapid dissemination of preliminary or timely findings.

Requirements:

- Word Limit: 2,000–4,000 words
- Abstract: Unstructured, max 150 words
- Keywords: 3–5
- Figures/Tables: Maximum 2
- Other Requirements:
 - Focus on concise, novel findings
 - Limit background and discussion

2.4 Case Studies / Reports

Purpose: Present detailed observations of unique or instructive cases relevant to medical sociology or public health.

Requirements:

- Word Limit: 2,000–4,000 words
- Abstract: Unstructured, max 150 words
- Keywords: 3–5
- Figures/Tables: Maximum 3 □ Other Requirements:
 - Ethics approval and patient consent required for identifiable data ◦
 - Discuss implications for practice, policy, or theory

2.5 Practical Notes for Authors

1. Abstracts: Must accurately summarize study design, methods, results, and implications.
2. Keywords: Use standardized terms where possible (MeSH, CINAHL headings).
3. Figures/Tables: Sequentially numbered, cited in text, legends must include units and abbreviations.
4. Ethical Considerations: Include statements on ethics approval, consent, conflicts of interest, and funding.

3. Formatting and Style Guidelines

These guidelines ensure that manuscripts submitted to the Journal of Medical Sociology and Public Health are professional, consistent, and compliant with international standards. Adherence improves readability, peer review efficiency, and publication quality.

3.1 General Formatting

Parameter	Requirement
Font	Times New Roman, 12 pt
Line Spacing	Double-spaced throughout
Margins	1 inch (2.54 cm) all sides
Manuscript Sections	Include Title page, Abstract, Main Text, References, Figures/Tables, Supplementary Material (if any)

Practical Note: Use a single Word document for the main manuscript; figures and tables should be uploaded separately.

3.2 Headings

Heading Level	Format	Example
Level 1	Bold, Centered	METHODS
Level 2	Bold, Left-aligned	Study Design
Level 3	Italic, Left-aligned	Confounders and Covariates

3.3 References

Accepted Styles:

- APA 7th Edition – For social science and epidemiology-focused manuscripts In-text citation formats:
- APA:
- 1 Author - (Smith, 2020)
- 2 Authors - (Smith & Johnson, 2020)
- 3 or More Authors - (Smith et al., 2020)

3.4 Figures and Tables

Figures:

- Format: JPG, PNG, TIFF □ Resolution: ≥ 300 dpi
- Include descriptive legends explaining variables, units, and abbreviations
- Editable Word/Excel format (do not use images) □ Number tables consecutively (Table 1, Table 2...)
- Include a concise title and column/row headings
- Footnotes: Define abbreviations and statistical notations

3.5 Supplementary Material

- File types: PDF, Excel, Word, or CSV □ Label as “Supplementary Material 1, 2...”
- Include questionnaires, additional tables, code, or data
- Cite supplementary materials in the main text

Practical Note: Authors should ensure supplementary materials do not contain key results required for understanding the main findings; these should remain in the main manuscript.

3.6 Ethical Citation Practices

- Cite original sources, not secondary references
- Avoid excessive self-citation or citation manipulation
- Provide accurate attribution for all reproduced figures or tables
- Ensure citations are relevant and up to date

4. Ethical Guidelines and Declarations

The Journal of Medical Sociology and Public Health requires all authors to adhere to highest ethical standards in the conduct and reporting of research. Compliance ensures research integrity, protection of human/animal participants, transparency, and trust in published findings.

4.1 Human Research Ethics

- All studies involving human participants must follow the Declaration of Helsinki principles.
- Manuscripts must include:
 - Name of the approving ethics committee / IRB
 - Approval number or code

- Statement confirming informed consent from participants

4.2 Animal Research Ethics

- ▣ Animal studies must comply with institutional, national, and international guidelines ▣
Authors must describe:
 - Animal care and housing conditions
 - Ethical approval for experimental procedures

4.3 Informed Consent

- Required for studies involving human subjects, identifiable patient data, or case reports.
- Consent must cover participation and publication of identifying information if applicable.
- Consent can be written or digital, following institutional regulations.

4.4 Conflicts of Interest

- Authors must disclose all financial, personal, or professional conflicts that could influence interpretation of results.
- Statement should appear under a separate heading: Conflict of Interest.

4.5 Funding Statements

- List all sources of funding, grant numbers, and the role of funders in study design, data collection, analysis, and publication.

4.6 Plagiarism and Originality

- All submissions must be original work.
- Manuscripts will be screened with plagiarism detection software.
- Duplicate publication or self-plagiarism is strictly prohibited.

4.7 Adherence to COPE and ICMJE Guidelines

- The journal follows:
 - COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics) Best Practice Guidelines for ethical publishing ◦

ICMJE Recommendations for authorship, reporting, and ethical conduct Key Points:

1. Authorship must be based on substantial contribution, drafting/revision, and approval.
2. All relevant ethical approvals must be documented.

3. Transparency in reporting, funding, and conflicts is mandatory.

5. Manuscript Submission Process

The Journal of Medical Sociology and Public Health uses a streamlined online submission system to ensure efficient handling, peer review, and tracking of all manuscripts. Authors must follow these guidelines to avoid delays in processing.

5.1 Required Files

1. Main Manuscript:
 - Includes title page, abstract, main text, references, and figure/table citations
 - File format: Word (.doc/.docx)
2. Figures and Tables:
 - Figures: JPG, PNG, TIFF, ≥ 300 dpi
 - Tables: editable Word/Excel format
 - Legends and captions should be included in the main manuscript
3. Supplementary Material:

- Appendices, additional datasets, questionnaires, or code
 - File format: PDF, Word, Excel, or CSV
 - Label sequentially (Supplementary Material 1, 2...)
- 4. Cover Letter:
 - Addressed to the Editor-in-Chief
 - Must include:
 - Manuscript title and type
 - Summary of significance and fit with journal scope
 - Ethical compliance statement (IRB approval, informed consent)
 - Funding sources and role of funders
 - Conflicts of interest disclosure

5.2 Manuscript Preparation Checklist

Before submission, ensure:

- Manuscript follows journal formatting and style guidelines
- Figures and tables are numbered, cited, and legible
- Abstract and keywords are included
- Ethical approval, informed consent, and conflicts of interest are documented
- Supplementary materials are labeled and cited in the main text

5.3 File Naming Conventions

- Use clear, descriptive filenames:
 - Manuscript: Initials_ResearchArticle.docx
 - Figures: Initials_Figure1_Title.jpg
 - Tables: Initials_Table1_Title.docx
 - Supplementary: Initials_Supplementary1_Title.pdf

6. Peer Review Process

The Journal of Medical Sociology and Public Health employs a rigorous, transparent, and evidencebased peer review process to ensure the quality, validity, and relevance of all published research.

6.1 Review Model

- Double-blind peer review: Both authors and reviewers are anonymized to reduce bias.
- Occasionally, open peer review may be applied for special issues or invited manuscripts.
- Reviewers are selected based on subject expertise, prior publications, and absence of conflicts of interest.

6.2 Review Timeline

Stage	Typical Duration
Initial editorial screening	1–2 weeks
Peer review process	4–6 weeks
First decision to authors	4–6 weeks from submission
Revision period (minor/major)	2–4 weeks per round
Final decision	Within 8–12 weeks for most manuscripts

6.3 Reviewer Responsibilities

Reviewers are expected to:

1. Assess scientific rigor – appropriateness of study design, methodology, and statistical analyses.
2. Evaluate relevance and originality – contribution to medical sociology and public health.
3. Check transparency and reproducibility – clarity of methods, data availability, and ethical compliance.

4. Provide constructive feedback – specific, actionable, and respectful recommendations.
5. Declare conflicts of interest – any personal, financial, or professional relationships.

6.4 Revision Policies

- Minor Revisions: Addressed in a single round; typically involve clarifications or formatting adjustments.
- Major Revisions: May require multiple rounds; involve substantive changes to methodology, analysis, or interpretation.
- Response Letter: Authors must provide a point-by-point response to reviewers' comments.

6.5 Editorial Decision

- Final decision rests with the Editor-in-Chief or assigned associate editors.
- Possible outcomes:
 1. Accept without revision
 2. Minor revision
 3. Major revision
 4. Reject

7. Data Availability and Transparency

The Journal of Medical Sociology and Public Health emphasizes open, reproducible, and transparent research practices. Authors are expected to provide sufficient information to allow replication, verification, and further research, while respecting ethical and legal constraints.

7.1 Data Sharing Policy

- All manuscripts must include a Data Availability Statement specifying how readers can access the data used in the study.
- Options include:
 1. Public Repository: Data deposited in recognized repositories
 2. Available on Request: Data available from corresponding author under reasonable conditions
 3. Restricted Access: Data sharing restricted due to ethical or legal considerations (patient privacy)

7.2 Reproducibility Standards

Authors must provide:

- Detailed methods – including study design, population, variables, measurements, and statistical analysis
- Code or scripts for statistical analysis or data processing, where applicable
- Supplementary material – extended tables, questionnaires, or protocols to allow replication

7.3 Supplementary Material

- Supplementary files may include:
 - Large datasets
 - Questionnaires or surveys
 - Additional tables or figures
 - Statistical code or scripts
- Must be cited in the main manuscript and labeled sequentially (Supplementary Material 1, 2...).

7.4 Reporting Standards

- Observational studies should follow STROBE guidelines
- Randomized trials must follow CONSORT guidelines
- Systematic reviews must follow PRISMA guidelines

8. Post-Acceptance and Publication

After a manuscript has been accepted, the journal ensures a professional, transparent, and efficient publication process. Authors are expected to follow all post-acceptance procedures to maintain accuracy, integrity, and discoverability of their work.

8.1 Proofing

- Authors receive galley proofs via email for final review.
- Proofs should be checked for:
 - Typographical errors
 - Formatting issues

- Accuracy of author names, affiliations, and funding information
- No new data, analyses, or substantial changes may be introduced at the proof stage.

8.2 Copyright and Licensing

- Authors retain copyright of their work.
- Authors must ensure that:
 - All third-party materials used (figures, tables) have proper permissions ◦No copyright infringement occurs

8.3 DOI Assignment and Archiving

- Each article receives a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) to ensure permanent and citable access. □
- Articles are archived in:
- Journal's digital archive

9. Author Responsibilities

Authors submitting to the Journal of Medical Sociology and Public Health are expected to adhere to the highest standards of scholarly integrity, transparency, and accountability. These responsibilities ensure the credibility of published research and maintain the journal's reputation.

9.1 Originality and Plagiarism

- Manuscripts must represent original work that has not been published elsewhere.
- Plagiarism, including self-plagiarism or duplicate publication, is strictly prohibited.
- Authors should cite all sources accurately and give proper credit for others' work.

9.2 Ethical Compliance

- Authors are responsible for ensuring:
 - Ethical approval for human or animal research
 - Informed consent from participants
 - Adherence to institutional and national ethical guidelines
- Any deviations or exceptions must be explicitly reported and justified in the manuscript.

9.3 Accurate Reporting

- Authors must report methods, results, analyses, and conclusions accurately.
- Avoid data manipulation, selective reporting, or misrepresentation of findings.
- Include all relevant details necessary for reproducibility and interpretation.

9.4 Authorship and Contributions

- Authorship should follow ICMJE criteria:
 1. Substantial contribution to study conception, design, data collection, or analysis
 2. Drafting or revising the manuscript critically
 3. Final approval of the submitted version
 4. Accountability for all aspects of the work
- All contributors not meeting authorship criteria should be acknowledged.

9.5 Conflicts of Interest and Funding Disclosure

- Authors must disclose all financial, personal, or institutional conflicts that could influence the work.
- Funding sources must be listed along with the role of funders, if any.

9.6 Accountability and Corrections

- Authors are responsible for responding to reviewer and editor queries promptly.
- Post-publication, authors must cooperate in correcting errors or retracting work if necessary.
- Corrections, errata, or retractions will follow COPE guidelines.