

EDITORIAL

The Ohio Journal of Public Health: A Platform to Showcase Public Health Education, Practice, and Research in Ohio

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Welcome to the inaugural issue of the *Ohio Journal of Public Health (OJPH)*. This new journal will feature articles on public health education, practice, and research that are relevant to public health professionals in Ohio. The idea for the Journal came from Joe Ebel and Lois Hall during their terms as President and Executive Director, respectively, of the Ohio Public Health Association (OPHA). Early in 2018 the Governing Council of OPHA approved the guidelines for the Journal and here we are, several months later, rolling out the first issue which features an Op-Ed, five peer-reviewed research papers, and a research brief all written by researchers in Ohio.

In this issue, you will read an Op-Ed about HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and how its use may have an unintended consequence. The research articles and brief cover a variety of important public health topics. Two papers are focused on physical activity. In one, Smock and colleagues report the extent to which Northeast Ohio health care providers prescribe exercise to the patients in their practice. In the second, Nolan and Hallam present a scale that measures exercise self-efficacy, and the psychometric properties of the scale were established in a sample of Ohio adults. Another paper, written by Wallace and co-authors, is about the relationship between age, body mass index, and knee osteoarthritis among middle-age and older adults, including adults from Ohio. In another paper, Embree and colleagues present the results from an ecological analysis that explored the relationship between county-level factors and suicide rates over

a 10-year period (2007-2016) in Ohio. The last research article, authored by DiPietro and collaborators, examines the extent to which Ohio health care providers are discussing reproductive life plans with their patients. Finally, in the research brief, Hardin and Roberts report the change in smoking prevalence among college-aged individuals who participated in a summer work program in Appalachia. All of the articles address important public health issues in Ohio and their publication in the Journal will hopefully stimulate conversations between researchers and practitioners.

I am thrilled to have the opportunity to serve as the founding Editor-in-Chief of the Journal. In this role, I will assure that all submissions undergo a rigorous and fair peer-review process and that all publications clearly describe the relevance to public health in Ohio. This latter point is critical, given that the mission of OPHA includes “to be the inclusive Voice of Public Health in Ohio and to advance the practice of public health in Ohio.” The Journal will provide another avenue for OPHA to serve as the “Voice of Public Health” in our state. I am hopeful that articles appearing in the Journal will enable Ohio public health professionals to disseminate their best practices more quickly to the community. I am also optimistic that the Journal will encourage collaboration across local and state public health organizations and universities in Ohio.