

Open Access: a  
researcher's perspective,  
thoughts and experience

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**see blue.**  
*in everything we do.*



# What research am I talking about today?

*Public Health Systems and Services Research (PHSSR) is: “a field of study that examines the organization, financing, and delivery of public health services within communities, and the impact of these services on public health.”*

Mays GP, Halverson PK, Scutchfield FD. Behind the curve? What we know and need to learn from public health systems research. J Public Health Manag Pract. 2003;9:179–182.



## Key Developments in PHSSR

- Robert Wood Johnson enters the field-2004
- National Coordinating Center for PHSSR/PBRN
- National investigator-initiated funding program
- Expanded data collection by NACCHO and ASTHO
- NLM collaboration on data bases and bibliography, etc
- Expanding the field with new investigator awards
- National Conference-Keeneland Conference
- National Research Agenda Setting
- **Translation and Dissemination**



## Translating Research into Practice and Asking Practice-Based Research Questions

“Key components of EBPH include: making decisions based on the best available scientific evidence, using data and information systems systematically, applying program planning frameworks, engaging the community and practitioners in decision making, conducting sound evaluation, and disseminating what is learned. The usual application of these principles has over-emphasized the scientific evidence as the starting point, whereas this review suggests engaging the community and practitioners as an equally important starting point to assess their needs, assets and circumstances, which can be facilitated with program planning frameworks and use of local assessment and surveillance data.”

Green, Lawrence W.; Ottoson, Judith M.; García, César; Hiatt, Robert A.; and Roditis, Maria L. (2014) "Diffusion theory and knowledge dissemination, utilization and integration," *Frontiers in Public Health Services and Systems Research*: Vol. 3: No. 1, Article 3.



- Making decisions based on the best available peer-reviewed evidence (both quantitative and qualitative research);
- Using data and information systems systematically;
- Applying program planning frameworks
- Engaging the community in assessment and decision making;
- Conducting sound evaluation;
- Disseminating what is learned to key stakeholders and decision makers; and synthesizing scientific skills, effective communication, common sense, and political acumen in making decisions.



How can we speed the results of our efforts to practitioners of public health to do more evidence-based practice?

- Traditional Journal Publications
- Presentation at National Public Health Professional Meetings
- Policy Briefs, Newsletters, Website and Social Media
- Our National Meeting on PHSSR
- Possibility of an open access journal \*



# Academic/Practice Conflicts

## What Academics Value



*"It's publish or perish, and he hasn't published."*





# Where do public health practitioners get their information?

Turner AM, Stavri Z, Revere D, Altamore R. From the ground up: information needs of nurses in a rural public health department in Oregon. J Med Libr Assoc. Oct 2008; 96(4): 335-342.

**Table 1**  
Summary of responsibilities, tasks, and information resources for a sample of rural public health nurses in Oregon

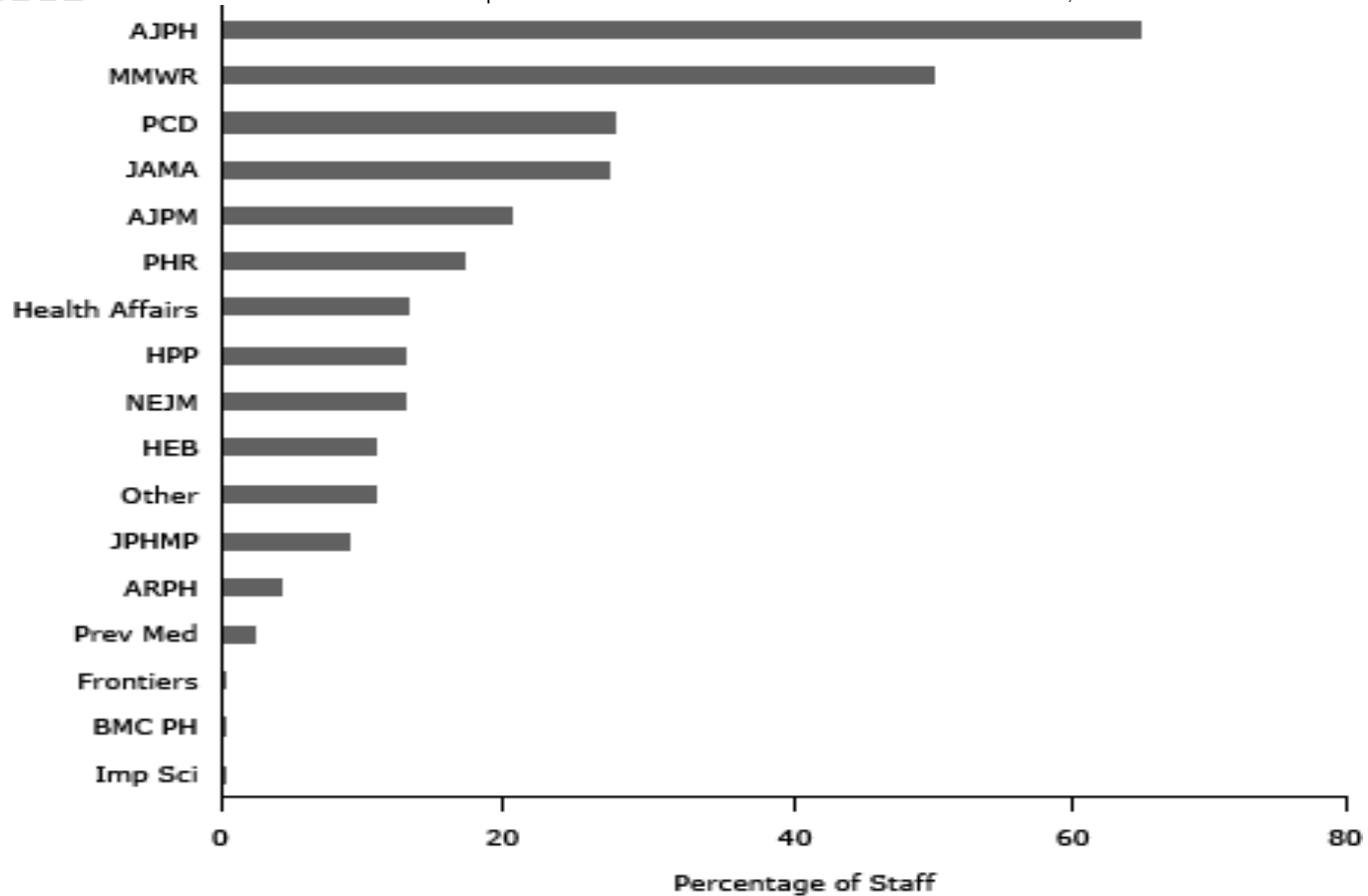
Position	Responsibilities and tasks	Information resources
Clinic nurse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Provide family planning</li> <li>■ Administer immunizations</li> <li>■ Diagnose and treat communicable diseases.</li> <li>■ Diagnose, treat, and follow-up sexually transmitted diseases (STD)</li> <li>■ Provide HIV case management</li> <li>■ Train student nurses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Peers</li> <li>■ Clinical protocols and program manuals</li> <li>■ Local health officer/nursing supervisor</li> <li>■ State department of health experts</li> <li>■ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state health department materials</li> <li>■ Textbooks</li> <li>■ Professional conferences</li> </ul>
Home visiting nurse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Evaluate and monitor child development</li> <li>■ Manage special medical needs cases</li> <li>■ Provide maternity case management</li> <li>■ Provide nutrition and breastfeeding education</li> <li>■ Provide referrals to health care providers and social service agencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Peers</li> <li>■ Clinical protocols and program manuals</li> <li>■ Local health officer/nursing supervisor</li> <li>■ Textbooks</li> <li>■ State health department personnel</li> <li>■ Professional conferences</li> </ul>
School nurse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Conduct health education classes</li> <li>■ Provide skills training to school staff</li> <li>■ Communicate with parents and school staff</li> <li>■ Create and maintain emergency protocols for students with medical needs</li> <li>■ Provide limited medical care services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Peers</li> <li>■ Local health officer/nursing supervisor</li> <li>■ Educational materials from local, state, and national health agencies</li> <li>■ Textbooks</li> </ul>
Women's health specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Provide family planning and STD evaluations</li> <li>■ Provide pediatric sex abuse evaluations</li> <li>■ Advise other local public health department nurses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Local health officer/nursing supervisor</li> <li>■ State department of health personnel</li> <li>■ Professional conferences</li> <li>■ Professional journals</li> <li>■ Textbooks</li> </ul>
Nursing assistants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Prepare patient rooms and collect information (e.g., laboratory results)</li> <li>■ Serve as liaison for Spanish-speaking clients</li> <li>■ Identify pertinent patient education materials</li> <li>■ Facilitate flow of patients through clinic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Peers</li> <li>■ Clinical nurses</li> <li>■ Health education materials</li> </ul>
Nursing supervisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Manage staff (e.g., scheduling, personnel management)</li> <li>■ Monitor communicable disease outbreaks</li> <li>■ Organize staff training</li> <li>■ Coordinate emergency preparations</li> <li>■ Provide community outreach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Local health department director</li> <li>■ Local health officer</li> <li>■ State health department personnel</li> <li>■ Textbooks and guidebooks*</li> <li>■ Professional conferences</li> <li>■ State health department newsletters</li> <li>■ CDC printed materials</li> </ul>
Communicable disease nurse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Conduct community outreach</li> <li>■ Conduct disease surveillance</li> <li>■ Investigate suspected disease outbreaks</li> <li>■ Participate in emergency response activities</li> <li>■ Investigate and report notifiable conditions (including STDs)</li> <li>■ Provide outreach to community health care providers and health care facilities</li> <li>■ Monitor and treat tuberculosis patients</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Peers</li> <li>■ Clinical protocols</li> <li>■ Local health officer/nursing supervisor</li> <li>■ State health department personnel</li> <li>■ State health department newsletters</li> <li>■ CDC printed materials</li> <li>■ Professional conferences</li> <li>■ CDC and state health department websites</li> </ul>
Bioterrorism liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Plan, organize, and participate in emergency response activities</li> <li>■ Conduct community outreach</li> <li>■ Conduct disease surveillance</li> <li>■ Investigate relevant outbreaks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Peers (communicable disease nurse)</li> <li>■ Local health department director</li> <li>■ Professional conferences</li> <li>■ Clinical protocols</li> <li>■ CDC and state health department websites</li> <li>■ State health department newsletters</li> </ul>
Health department director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Prioritize services and programs</li> <li>■ Manage personnel</li> <li>■ Communicate with policy makers</li> <li>■ Monitor community health</li> <li>■ Provide budget oversight</li> <li>■ Disseminate information (e.g., to other health agencies and community stakeholders)</li> <li>■ Serve on state and county committees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Peers (local health agencies directors)</li> <li>■ State health department personnel</li> <li>■ Community representatives</li> <li>■ CDC and state health department websites</li> <li>■ Professional journals</li> <li>■ State health department reports/vital statistics</li> </ul>

\* For example, American Academy of Pediatrics Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases; CDC Immunization Guidelines Handbook.



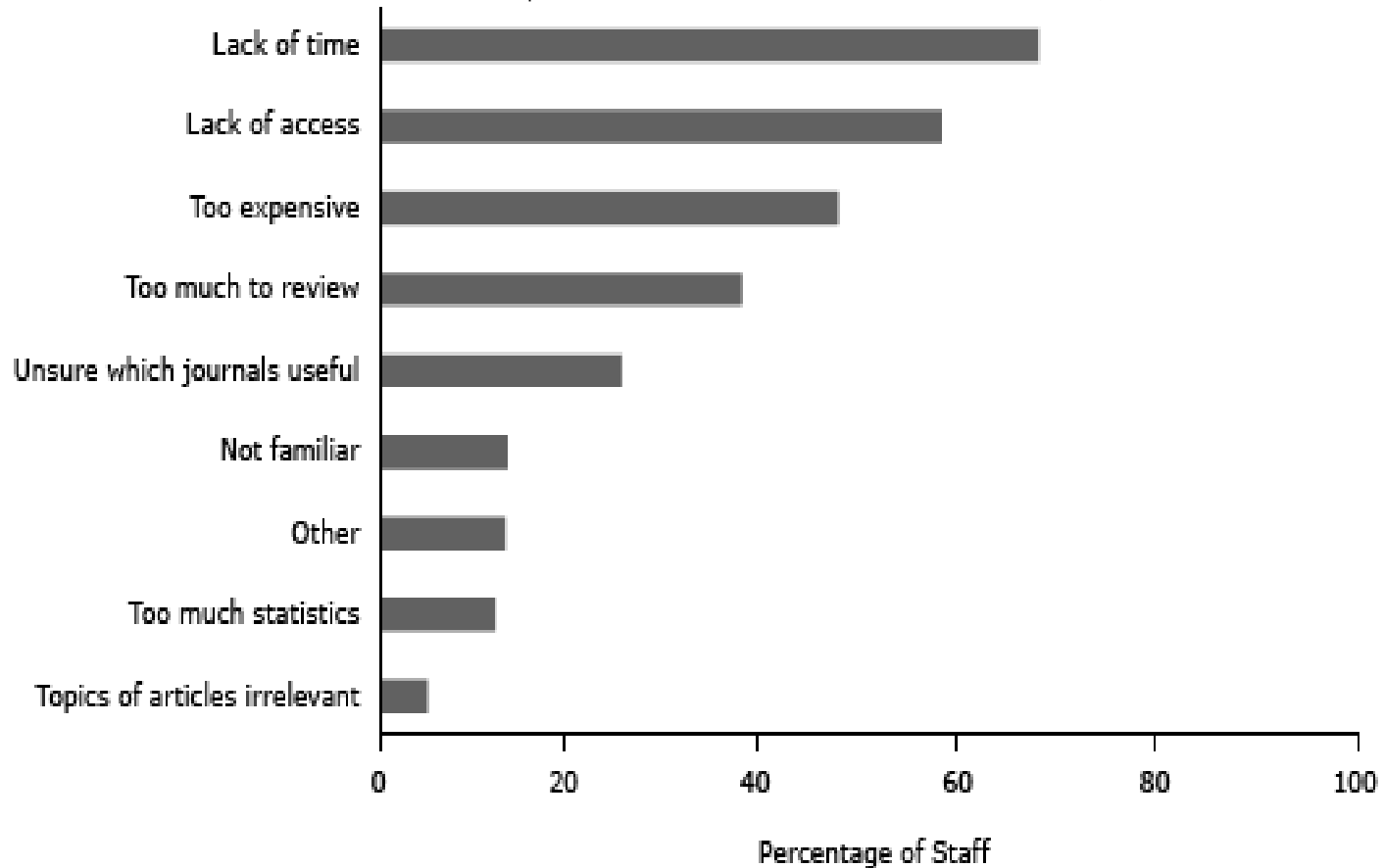
## Mean percentage of journal-using staff per health department selecting each journal as 1 of the top 3 they use.

Harris JK, Allen P, Jacob RR, Elliott L, Brownson RC. Information-Seeking Among Chronic Disease Prevention Staff in State Health Departments: Use of Academic Journals. *Prev Chronic Dis* 2014;11:140201



Percentage of non-journal using participants per health department who indicated each barrier to journal use as 1 of their top 3 barriers.

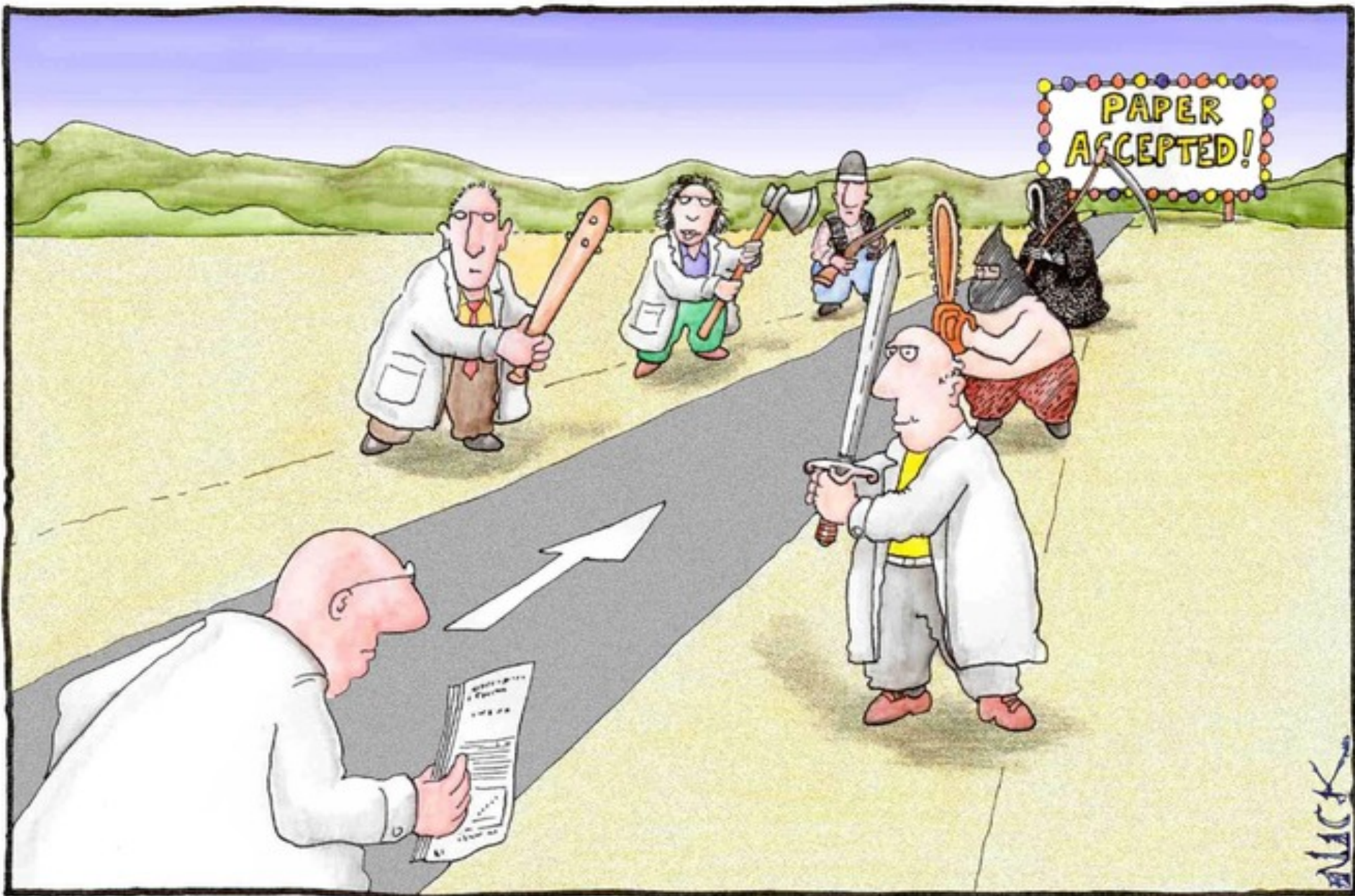
Harris JK, Allen P, Jacob RR, Elliott L, Brownson RC. Information-Seeking Among Chronic Disease Prevention Staff in State Health Departments: Use of Academic Journals. *Prev Chronic Dis* 2014;11:140201



# The Publishing Paradox: the incentives

- The university pays my salary, I do research: some is reimbursed by a grant to do research they want and some by UK
- I send, free, my intellectual capital (research products) to a journal, owned by a scientific organization, who has a contract with a for-profit publisher
- The publisher sells it back to my university, who paid my salary
- **What is incentivized?**
- Or I pay someone to publish it, keeping the copyright myself, not the university or the funder
- **What is incentivized?**





Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as "quite an improvement."



# Frontiers in PHSSR:

## Why our Decision About an Open Access PHSSR Journal?

- UK Library Resources, Glen Mays, Robert Shapiro and BePress
- Graphic design and D/I team at NCC
- Good rapport with our authors, many we bankroll
- Some help with their reports on grants we have given them (make them in the right format)
- Research assistance available, and editors who weren't concerned with buying their time
- An open and amenable foundation; so no author fees



## Use the format of MMWR, the on line open access journal most read by practitioners!

- limited to 1,400 words at submission, 10 references, and a total of 3 tables, figures, and/or boxes.
- The first paragraph is similar to both a newspaper lead paragraph (i.e., who, what, when, where, why, and how?) and the abstract of a report in a typical medical journal and is limited to 150–200 words.
- the second section should be a concise summary (1 or 2 paragraphs) of the methods used to conduct the analysis.
- the results section is a concise highlighting of the major results of the analysis.
- the discussion should begin by stating the conclusions of the report, interpreting the results, conveying their public health meaning, and placing the results into context by citing comparative or corroborative studies.



## And a great idea: the summary box!

In 1 or 2 sentences for each, contributors should answer the following: What is already known on this topic? What is added by this report? and What are the implications for public health practice? Because these answers contain the key public health message as well as the justification for the publication, contributors should consider drafting the summary box before writing the text of the report.





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### MMWR Weekly

**This Week in MMWR**



Alcohol was involved in 18.5% of emergency department visits for opioid drug abuse and 27.2% of visits for benzodiazepine abuse in 2010.

**October 10, 2014 / Vol. 63 / No. 40**  
CE Available

**Alcohol Involvement in Opioid Pain Reliever and Benzodiazepine Drug Abuse–Related Emergency Department Visits and Drug-Related Deaths — United States, 2010**

When taken with opioid pain relievers (OPRs) or benzodiazepines, alcohol increases central nervous system depression and the risk for overdose. To quantify alcohol involvement in OPR and benzodiazepine abuse and drug-related deaths and to inform prevention efforts, the Food and Drug Administration and CDC analyzed 2010 data for drug abuse–related emergency department visits in the United States and drug-related deaths that involved OPRs and alcohol or benzodiazepines and alcohol in 13 states. This report summarizes the results of that analysis.

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### MMWR Recommendations and Reports

**September 26, 2014 / Vol. 63 / No. RR–6**  
CE Available  
**Updated Preparedness and Response Framework for Influenza Pandemics**

CDC has updated its framework to describe influenza pandemic progression using six intervals (two pre-pandemic and four pandemic intervals) and eight domains. This updated framework can be used for influenza pandemic planning and has been aligned with the pandemic phases restructured in 2013 by the World Health Organization.

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# Getting it Read

- NCC Website
- Social Media Capacity
- Mailing list that included those that have attended our conferences
- Grantees
- Major authors in PHSSR
- NACCHO/ASTHO agreement to reproduce abstracts in their newsletter and along with website address for full articles
- Annual Reports of PH agreement to give us a page of ad, and to publish summaries of their articles, with websites



# A coup!

The American Journal of Public Health is a benefit of membership in the American Public Health Association. They have in excess of 40K members. They have agreed to publish abstracts from Frontiers in PHSSR monthly, along with a website address for the journal.



# Problems and questions with Frontiers- not unique to on-line open-access publication

- PubMed indexing
- Part time-non professional publishing staff
- Getting good manuscripts
- Getting good, timely reviews
- Do we do a periodical, like monthly, or publish on a rolling basis
- Getting readers and citations



*That's all Folks!*

