

AJPH CALL FOR PAPERS
**SPECIAL SECTION ON THE STATE OF TRANSGENDER
PUBLIC HEALTH TODAY**

The *American Journal of Public Health (AJPH)* invites the submission of manuscripts on the state of transgender public health today, to be published in March 2025.

In the past five years, there have been an increasing number of anti-transgender bills proposed, passed, and enacted in the U.S, which aim to or successfully ban the best practice medical and/or surgical care for transgender youth (and/or adults), and make it a felony to provide such care; ban transgender students from participating in sports and/or using gender-segregated facilities (such as bathrooms); ban the discussion of LGBTQ+ people, identities, communities, and/or history in schools; support and/or require the forced outing of trans youth in schools or to parents; prevent schools or districts from adding LGBTQ+ protections to anti-bullying policies; censor LGBTQ+ and gender identity related content in school and/or public libraries; and, in the case of 4 states, attempt to or successfully allow the reinstatement of youth conversion therapy practices (Movement Advancement Project, 2024). While the total number of bills is ever-changing, the anti-trans legislation tracker reported more than 700 state and national-level bills introduced or carried over into 2024 (as of August 2, 2024).

This has had far-reaching and devastating consequences. The Trevor Project recently released its 2023 National Survey on LGBTQ+ youth mental health and found that half of all trans and non-binary young people seriously considered attempting to un-alive themselves in the past year, with nearly 1 in 3 saying that their mental health was poor most of the time or always because of anti-LGBTQ+ policies and legislation. The 2022 U.S. Trans Survey's early insights report also indicated that 50% of trans people were either forced to relocate to a different state, or seriously considered it, because of legislative changes and gender-affirming care bans; and that 25% avoided necessary health care due to fear—which is unfortunately valid, given that half of the people who did seek out care reported experiencing discrimination from their health care providers.

However, these are not the *only* stories of transgender existence today. Indeed, in the face of political and social repression and violence, there has been significant and powerful resistance. All over the U.S., queer and trans adults, youth, and their accomplices, are fighting back. We've seen educators using students' correct pronouns and names, even where it's illegal; schools providing comprehensive and inclusive sex education, despite federal and state-level restrictions; librarians normalizing queer stories and people by resisting book bans and ensuring libraries are stocked with LGBTQ+ narratives; states mandating the positive teaching of LGBTQ+ history; and parents and adult allies and accomplices supporting student efforts to organize against homophobia and transphobia through Gay, Trans, and Queer Student Alliances, banned book clubs, and more. Additionally, in the past five years, we've seen a number of prominent professional organizations for public health, medicine, and wellbeing, affirm trans people's right to exist, receive comprehensive care, and be treated with dignity; including, The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM), the American Psychiatric Association, the American Medical Association, and the American College Health Association, among other organizations that had already affirmed these beliefs, including that of the American Public Health Association (whose inclusive policies and practices statement was released in 2016).

Given all that unfolded in the past five years, we invite the submission of manuscripts in a number of critical areas related to the state of transgender public health and health equity today; including, but not limited to topics addressing:

- Pressing areas of transgender-affirmative medical ethics/bioethics/public health ethics;
- Trans-supportive and gender-affirming policy protections being enacted at the local and state levels, and its effects on trans communities in those localities;
- Promising best practices for trans youth and/or adult care;
- Transgender-inclusive and/or affirming K-12 sexual health education curricula;
- Transgender-inclusive medical education and/or health services curricula and training modules;
- Transgender organizing and empowerment health promotion strategies;
- New or emergent guidelines or techniques for trans inclusion in SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity) data collection/electronic medical records/recruitment into and retainment in clinical research;
- Strengths-based, asset-focused research, as well as that on adaptive coping, health hardiness, and/or resilience; and/or
- Programs, initiatives, or community priority areas to promote and support trans wellbeing, flourishing, and thriving.

Potential authors should visit the AJPH website (www.ajph.org) to review the Instructions for Authors and specific guidelines for the various types of manuscripts. Importantly, submissions must include a cover letter formatted as requested in the Instructions for Authors and should specify that the submission is for the Transgender Public Health special section. In all manuscripts, the number of words, references, and tables/figures must correspond to a specific AJPH article format.

Select manuscripts will undergo editorial review and eventual peer review by the AJPH editors and peer referees as defined by AJPH policy. Submissions of research papers are due on October 15, 2024, and can be submitted at <https://www.editorialmanager.com/ajph>. If you are planning to submit a research article and will not be able to meet the submission deadline, please contact Stewart Landers (Stewart_Landers@jsi.com) or B. Ethan Coston (bmccoston@vcu.edu) to request an extension. Editorials, Qualitative Notes from the Field, Opinion Editorials, and other non-research contributions on the topic may be submitted up to December 15, 2024. Publication is planned for March 2025.