

AJPH Call for Papers

Rural Public Health: A New Frontier

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Rural health in America is at a crossroads. Despite some positive national trends, rural America is in decline. People in rural communities face inequities, such as lower educational attainment, worse housing quality, and food insecurity, that result in poorer health relative to non-rural areas. Health care workforce maldistribution, rural hospital closures, lack of insurance, and limited public health infrastructure have resulted in inadequate access to health and health care in rural settings. The restructuring of the rural economy from agrarian to service-based (including jails and prisons) and economic decline have become sources of community stress. And of course, some subpopulations and parts of rural America have been even more disproportionately affected than others, in particular by deaths of despair.

American prosperity depends on the revitalization—the reinvention—of such a substantial part of the country. What is rural governmental public health's role in improving the health of rural America? We invite papers describing rural health research, analyzing the status of rural governmental public health and health care, reporting interventions in rural settings, assessing the impact of laws and policies aiming at revitalizing rural health, and the human health impact of climate change specifically in rural areas. We also invite editorials and commentaries proposing ways of applying public health methods that have been successful in metropolitan areas or in rural health in other regions of the world to US rural settings, describing potential sources of funding, and depicting a vision for a rural public health of the 21st century.

Potential authors should visit the [AJPH website](#) to review the Instructions for Authors and specific guidelines for the various types of manuscript formats. Importantly, submissions must include a cover letter formatted as requested in the Instructions for Authors and should specify that the submission is for the special issue. 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. Manuscripts must be submitted by **January 15, 2020**, at <https://www.editorialmanager.com/ajph>.

Guest Editor: Wendy E. Braund, MD, MPH, MEd, Associate Dean of Practice, University of Pittsburgh. ***AJPH* Associate**

Editor: Paul Erwin, MD, DrPH, Dean, School of Public Health, University of Alabama at Birmingham.