



AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

*For science. For action. For health.*

## **AJPH CALL FOR PAPERS SPECIAL SECTION ON LGBTQ+ WELL-BEING, FLOURISHING, PRIDE, & JOY**

The *American Journal of Public Health (AJPH)* invites the submission of manuscripts on the state of LGBTQ+ well-being, flourishing, pride, and joy, to be published in June 2025.

Amidst a stark rise in homophobia, transphobia, and anti-LGBTQ+ legislation across the world, there is a clear need for public health practitioners, scholars, and advocates to reaffirm their commitment to protecting, promoting, and restoring LGBTQ+ people's psychosocial-spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being. While we recognize and acknowledge the importance of addressing disease burden, this special section is primarily concerned with activities, practices, research, education and curricula, policy briefs, programs, and community-led priority areas that highlight how resilience, thriving, flourishing, joy, and/or pleasure are integral components of LGBTQ+ health.

Potential topics might include:

- the role of joy and pleasure in leading healthy lives, particularly where there is convergence of synergy with other movements, such as Black Boy Joy and/or #DisabledPeopleAreHot;
- moving beyond resilience to examine the role of resistance in individuals, families, and communities building power, and confronting, challenging, and striving to upend the dominant relations in society;
- work being done to support sex workers, sexual surrogates, and/or sacred intimacy practitioners in a time of heightened surveillance and carcerality;
- sexual agency, sexual citizenship, and promotive sexual rights;
- models and/or interventions that focus on healthy relationships, including examining the potential benefits of "hook-up culture," the use of dating/relationship apps in the promotion of queer and trans pleasure, and/or stories of T4T (trans for trans) love;
- stories of/research on affirmative asexual identity development, intimate relationship building, and/or community-making;
- developmental processes and milestones, including pathways into and out of relationships and identities, affirming coming out stories, and stories of positive self-discovery/healing through intimate relationships, marriage and divorce, engagement in non-monogamies, and/or community engagement;
- queer and trans constructions of family-of-choice;
- strengths-based health promotion approaches, interventions, health services, and/or sexual education models;
- and more!



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Potential authors should visit the *AJPH* website ([www.ajph.org](http://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 LGBTQ+ Joy 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 January 15, 2025, 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](mailto:stewart_landers@jsi.com)) or B. Ethan Coston ([bmcoston@vcu.edu](mailto:bmcoston@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 March 15, 2025. Publication is planned for June 2025.