

Local Acts

Highlighting Innovation in Public Health

Background

Public Health Reports is a public health journal published since 1878. It is distributed widely in the public health community, including to all members of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). *Public Health Reports* publishes articles on research, practice, and viewpoint essays. In 2007, *Public Health Reports* in collaboration with NACCHO began publishing a peer-reviewed column featuring innovation in local public health.



Local Acts

The column is called “Local Acts.” The name was chosen to reflect the importance of acting locally in the promotion of public health.

The goal of the column is to showcase the unique ways that local public health departments protect their population and the environment.

Local health officials are encouraged to submit manuscripts covering such topics as creative marketing campaigns; targeted legal action under local health codes; unusual agreements with the private sector; and productive collaborations with other local government entities, such as schools. This includes manuscripts on any initiative, program, resource, administrative practice, or tool that demonstrates exemplary and replicable qualities in response to a local public health need.

Specific Requirements

Manuscripts should be 1,000 to 2,000 words in length. Each should contain the following:

- A one-paragraph summary **abstract**;
- An **introduction** that outlines the problem and what spurred the health department to take action;
- An **initiative summary** that concisely explains what was done;
- A presentation of **outcome and evaluation**; and
- A **discussion** of lessons learned and next steps.



Submission Process

Manuscripts may be submitted via regular mail to:

Public Health Reports
Attn: Local Acts
7774 Heatherglen Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45255

Submissions may be e-mailed to the editor of *Public Health Reports* at manuscripts@publichealthreports.org. Notification of receipt will be made. Please specify **Local Acts** in the submission.

Prospective authors should feel free to e-mail Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, Contributing Editor for Local Acts, at josh.sharfstein@baltimorecity.gov to ask if a particular topic would be encouraged for submission. Questions may also be directed to Julie Keefe, Acting Editor, at juliekeefe@aol.com.

The manuscript will undergo a peer review process approved by the editorial board of *Public Health Reports*. Local health officers interested in serving on the peer review committee should contact Julie Keefe or Cindy Phillips of NACCHO at cphillips@naccho.org.