



Journal of Public Health in the Deep South
Call for Submissions for a Special Issue
Healthy Aging
February 2024

The Mississippi Public Health Association (MPHA), in partnership with Mississippi State University (MSU), initiated the *Journal of Public Health in the Deep South* (JPHDS) in 2018. The JPHDS is a peer-reviewed, open-access, online journal focused on disseminating high-quality research and/or effective applied techniques to academicians, educators, and practitioners. The JPHDS is the first publication to specifically focus on public health issues in this geographical space and with an appeal to both research and applied public health professionals and educators with emphases on research, practice, and teaching. The JPHDS is the official journal of MPHA and is hosted by MSU.

MPHA is issuing a call for submissions for a special issue focused on healthy aging. According to the Mississippi State Department of Health, Mississippi's older adult population is growing, and special health considerations come with this increase. Age-friendly services and age-friendly public systems are needed for the best health, dignity, and social connections of Mississippians as they grow older. MSDH has been recognized as an Age-Friendly Public Health System (AFPHS) by the Trust for America's Health (TFAH). Healthy aging is influenced by more than our genetics or access to health care. Non-medical factors influence the health of everyone, and they affect older adults even more. The conditions in which people grow, work, live and age shape their daily life. As a result, where we live and how influences our health as much as care, services or personal characteristics

<https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/search/index.cfm?criteria=Healthy%20Aging>.

With MSDH serving as the backbone organization, Mississippi has a number of partners who support the work of healthy aging in the state. The inaugural Healthy Aging Summit was held in Jackson, MS on May 4, 2023. The work plan for the age-friendly public health system includes both the 6 C's framework developed by TFAH and the Age-Friendly Ecosystem <https://afphs.org/age-friendly-ecosystem/>

This issue of the JPHDS will focus on research papers, case studies; and specially solicited commentaries that further elucidate the healthy aging for MS and for the Deep South. Articles for this special issue can include:

- Research or scientific manuscripts in full or brief reports
- Case studies/case reports
- Commentaries and editorials

A case study/case report is a story about a specific initiative, activity, or event that is described in less than 3500 words (not including abstract, tables, figures, or references).

A commentary is a short article less than 1500 words with 3 or fewer authors. It describes an author(s) perspective on the topic, based on observations and practice. A commentary can also be a documented interview with a public health leader. It is not a political article or an editorial.

The special issue is expected to be published during May 2024 in observance of Older Americans month.

The site is now ready for submissions.

<https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/jphds/>

Authors can click "Submit Article" on the upper lefthand side.

A webinar will be held **on February 19, 2024, at 4pm** central time to provide potential authors with guidance and to answer any questions. Attendance at the webinar is not required for submission. Interested authors can register for the webinar at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArf-ivqzljGt133-VBhgfcvnLDdeL7eLbT>

The deadline for initial submissions is March 31, 2024, to allow time for review and editing prior to publication.

The JPHDS reserves the right to refuse publication of case studies or commentaries that are determined to be inconsistent with the journal's purpose, ethics, and standards of publication.
