

Journal of Public Health in the Deep South **Call for Submissions for a Special Issue**

Violence Prevention in Public Health: A Critical Priority

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 emphasis 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 **Violence Prevention in Public Health: A Critical Priority** to be published in late December 2025/early January 2026.

Violence is a significant public health issue that affects individuals, families, and communities across the globe. From interpersonal violence such as child abuse, intimate partner violence, and elder abuse, to community-level violence including gang-related and firearm violence, its impacts are wide-reaching and multifaceted. Public health approaches to violence prevention emphasize data-driven strategies, early intervention, and collaborative, community-based solutions to reduce harm and promote health and safety. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines violence as the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or a group or community that results in, or has a high likelihood of resulting in, injury, death, psychological harm, or deprivation. Violence contributes not only to premature death and injury but also to long-term consequences including mental health disorders, substance use, chronic diseases, and intergenerational trauma.

Primary prevention—the focus on stopping violence before it occurs—is central to public health strategies. Data collection and surveillance are also key components of violence prevention. Systems like the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) collect comprehensive data on the circumstances surrounding violent deaths, enabling more precise and targeted prevention efforts. Additionally, partnerships between law enforcement, healthcare, schools, and community organizations enhance information-sharing and coordinated responses.

Trauma-informed care is another important element in violence prevention and recovery. Recognizing the widespread impact of trauma, public health practitioners aim to create safe environments that promote healing and resilience. This includes supporting mental health services, fostering positive youth development, and reducing exposure to adverse

childhood experiences (ACEs), which are strongly linked to later violence and victimization.

Policy advocacy is also crucial. Public health leaders can inform legislation and funding priorities that support gun safety laws, domestic violence protections, and community investment. For example, research has shown that firearm laws requiring background checks are associated with reduced firearm homicide rates.

The JPHDS is interested in publishing articles on any of the topics associated with violence prevention, with a special interest in submissions related to the Deep South.

Articles for this special issue can include:

- Research or scientific manuscripts in full or brief reports
- Case studies or case reports
- Commentaries and editorials
- Review articles
- Practice and pedagogy

Submission Process

For author guidelines, please see this link:

[Journal of Public Health in the Deep South: Final Manuscript Preparation Guidelines](#)

For author submissions, please see this link:

https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/cgi/login.cgi?return_to=https%3A%2F%2Fscholarsjunction.msstate.edu%2Fcgi%2Fsubmit.cgi%3Fcontext%3Djphds&context=jphds – *you may use your preferred email address (you don't have to have a @msstate.edu account*

Please be sure to note in the submission comments that your content is being submitted for the special issue on Violence Prevention.

Please note that we are not accepting submissions related to multimedia content for this special issue.

Timeline

A recorded webinar with helpful information on the journal, submission guidelines, and other tips can be found on our YouTube Channel ([@mpaha-1937](#)) at this link: <https://youtu.be/q4PATKjqVyE>.

The issue portal will be open in September and will close on October 31, 2025, in order to have adequate time to conduct reviews and copyediting to meet the publication date. The special issue is expected to be finalized in time for publication in late December 2025.