

Description of Local Acts, A Public Health Reports Column

Background

Public Health Reports (PHR) is the official journal for the U.S. Public Health Service and the Surgeon General. *PHR* is the oldest journal of public health in the U.S., publishing since 1878. It is distributed and read widely in the public health community. *PHR* publishes research and practice articles, as well as viewpoint essays and commentaries. Beginning in 2007, *PHR*, in collaboration with the National Association of County and City Health Officials, began publishing *Local Acts*, a peer-reviewed column featuring innovations in local public Health.

Local Acts

This column name was chosen to reflect the importance of innovation and action in public health at the local level. The goal of the column is to showcase the unique and creative ways that local public health departments or related institutions are protecting their populations and the environment.

Local health officials or health professional are encouraged to submit manuscripts describing topics such as creative marketing campaigns, targeted legal action under local health codes, innovative programs, unusual agreements with the private sector, or productive collaborations with other local government entities, such as schools. Submissions should include supportive or evaluation data where possible, with an ideal formula being:

Local act + Evaluation + Final assessment of utility, replicability, and challenges

Health departments are encouraged to submit 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 and should contain:

- 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 **outcomes and evaluation**; and
- A **discussion** of lessons learned and next steps.

Submission Process

Manuscripts should be submitted as one inclusive attachment to *Public Health Reports*, Attn: Local Acts, at manuscripts@publichealthreports.org. Notification of receipt will be sent via e-mail. Please specify Local Acts in the submission. The manuscript will undergo an external peer-review process if approved by the editorial board of *Public Health Reports*.

Prospective authors should feel free to contact Dr. Lorna Thorpe, column editor for Local Acts, to ask if a particular topic would be encouraged for submission. Local health officers interested in serving on the peer-review committee should also contact Dr. Thorpe. Her e-mail address is lthor@hunter.cuny.edu.