

STUDIES IN FAMILY PLANNING

A Journal of the Population Council

Studies in Family Planning – Author Guidelines

Studies in Family Planning welcomes the following types of papers:

Original Research Articles

These papers are typically 5,000-9,000 words, and generally include the following sections: abstract, background, methods, results, conclusions, discussion. We look for papers that are clearly written and analytically sound, have a compelling research question, and make a significant contribution to the literature. We also welcome systematic reviews, which may be longer than typical original research articles.

Reports

Reports are shorter and narrower in scope than Original Research Articles, typically no more than 5,000 words. They may be focused on a narrow finding with important programmatic or policy implications, or highlight a methodological innovation or challenge. They present original data analyses or the theoretical framing of an issue. Recent examples include “Developing the “120 by 20” Goal for the Global FP2020 Initiative” (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1728-4465.2014.00377.x/epdf>) and “Men’s Perspectives on their Role in Family Planning in Nyanza Province, Kenya” (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1728-4465.2015.00024.x/epdf>).

Data Papers (beginning 2017, detailed submission guidelines below)

Unlike an Original Research Article reporting hypotheses and conclusions, a Data Paper describes a particular dataset (or group of datasets), including details on study design, such as sampling methods. The Data Paper aims to bring the existence of the data to the attention of the scholarly community, and may serve as a useful reference for future publications drawing on the data set. Your complete dataset should be openly available or available upon request.

Commentaries

Commentaries should be focused on important policy issues. While shorter (1000-2000 words) and more high-level than Original Research Articles or Reports, Commentaries should present clear arguments – i.e., “story lines” – based on evidence. Recent topics included: Zika and reproductive rights in Latin America (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1728-4465.2016.00058.x/full>), the gender data gap (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/sifp.70/full>), and the end of China’s one-child policy (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1728-4465.2016.00052.x/full>).

Data Paper Submission Guidelines

Data Papers will be indexed, cited, and promoted alongside *Studies'* other published articles, and are intended to increase the visibility, accessibility, and usage of your dataset.

Manuscripts should be no longer than 2,500 words. Longer works will be considered, but the additional length should be justified in the cover letter.

Manuscripts are subject to a double-blind peer review process.

Your complete dataset, as well as key data collection tools (e.g., questionnaires) should be openly available or available upon request.

Note in your cover letter that you are submitting a Data Paper.

The following elements should be included in your paper:

Title

Authors and affiliations

Abstract

Brief contents of this Data Paper, including the value of the data, summary of the research design, and instructions on how to access the data.

Contents

- Subject area and subfield, focus or research questions for original data collection efforts
- Sample selection and size (including response rates and loss to follow up, as appropriate)
- Experimental design, as appropriate
- Type of data (e.g., spreadsheet, image, text file, graph, figure)
- How and when data were collected
- Data format (e.g., raw, filtered, analyzed, etc.)
- Data source location
- Data accessibility

All other information that would be useful to other researchers interested in using this dataset.

Usage

Brief instructions to assist with reuse. May include discussion of software, processing, integrating with other datasets, limitations to data usage, privacy or safety controls. May also include description of code available.

Value of the data

Why these data are of value to the scientific community; 3–5 bullet points.

Acknowledgments

References

References relevant to the data described, including any papers published using the dataset.

Studies in Family Planning accepts only electronic submissions using ScholarOne Manuscripts. To submit a manuscript, please follow the instructions below.

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Title Page

- The review process is double blind to ensure an impartial evaluation. Thus, the author's name and any identifying information should appear only on the title page of the manuscript. Do not include any identifying information in the abstract or manuscript.
- The title page should contain the title of the manuscript and the names and institutional affiliations for all authors as they want them printed in the published journal. The

complete address, phone number, and email address of the corresponding author should also be included.

Article Title

The title of the article must not be longer than 70 characters (including spaces). If the title is longer than 70 characters, we cannot guarantee that the entire title will be included on the cover. Please do not include the author(s) name in the filename.

Abstract

An Abstract of 150 words is required. It should summarize the main findings of the paper.

Text

- It is essential that all submissions conform to acceptable standards of English style and usage.
- All pages must have consecutive page numbering. Do not use other headers or footers.
- All references to monographs, articles, and other sources should be inserted at the appropriate place in the text, preferably at the end of a sentence.

Notes

A list of Notes should appear at the end of the main text and not on pages within the text. Notes are generally discouraged and should be kept to a minimum. Never use notes to cite materials.

References

- For multiple authorship, provide all names. For institutional authorship, provide minimum identification.
- If there are several references to the same author and year, they should be distinguished by the letters a, b, c, etc., as in 2000a, 2000b, 2000c in both the text and the list of references at the end of the text.
- All references listed in the reference section at the end of the manuscript must be cited in the text, and all references listed in the text must be included in the reference section. For citations for more than two authors, use “et al.” after the first author’s last name.
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Table and Figures

- Tables and Figures should be submitted at the end of the text with each Table and Figure on a separate page.
- Tables and Figures should be kept to a minimum.
- Tables should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are cited. Each Table must be cited in the text. Insert a line indicating where the Table or Figure should be placed in the text. In layout, tables are placed as close as possible to their first citation in the text.
- Each Table and Figure should have a self-contained title.

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