

PREVENTING CHRONIC DISEASE

PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH, PRACTICE, AND POLICY



A YEAR IN REVIEW



U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE
CONTROL AND PREVENTION

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF



Preventing Chronic Disease (PCD) is pleased to release its annual report, the *2024 Year in Review*, which provides the journal's readership with updates on the journal's impact factor, publication content, and the contributions of its volunteer groups. This year PCD celebrates 20 years of publication, looking back on an extraordinary journey marked by increases in its impact factor resulting from the dissemination of thousands of high-quality, peer-reviewed articles from around the world. Since its inception in 2004, PCD has expanded its topics of interest and the size of its volunteer groups — the editorial board, associate editors, Statistics Review Committee, and Student Scientific Writing and Review Training Committee. Our path forward requires building on the contributions of the public health experts who have volunteered hundreds of hours to bring expertise in the use of various research methodologies, evaluation approaches, evidence-based approaches to improve population health, statistical analyses, and strategies to maximize community and partnership engagement.

Because of a change in the way Clarivate calculated the impact factor this past year for journals included in Journal Citation Reports, which collapsed many subcategories into a larger pool under more general subject areas, many journals experienced a decrease in impact factor, and PCD was no exception. Our impact factor decreased from 5.5 in 2022 to 4.4 in 2023. That change is not a reflection of a decrease in the quality of the journal; in fact, the journal continues to improve in the quality, rigor, relevance, and outreach of its content as evidenced by the other primary source of journal rankings:

- Worldwide Journals in All Categories, 2023: Ranked in the top 7% worldwide of 29,165 journals
- Worldwide Journals in Public Health, Environmental and Occupational Health, 2023: Ranked 48th of 656 (top 7%)
- Worldwide Open Access Journals in Public Health, Environmental and Occupational Health, 2023: Ranked 21st of 295 (top 7%)
- US Journals in Public Health, Environmental and Occupational Health, 2023: Ranked 16th of 165 (top 10%)

- US Open Access Journals in Public Health, Environmental and Occupational Health, 2023: Ranked 3rd of 36 (top 8%)

PCD's continued improvement in its domestic and worldwide standings is the result of the tremendous support received from senior leadership in the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), along with the journal's dedicated staff, associate editors, editorial board, Statistics Review Committee, and Student Scientific Writing and Review Training Committee.

PCD published a record number of 7 collections in 2024 on subjects that resonated with readers and garnered attention in news and social media channels. PCD collections comprise articles on a specific topic or theme for rapid dissemination to the journal's readers. In 2024, the journal's 7 collections addressed a range of important public health topics:

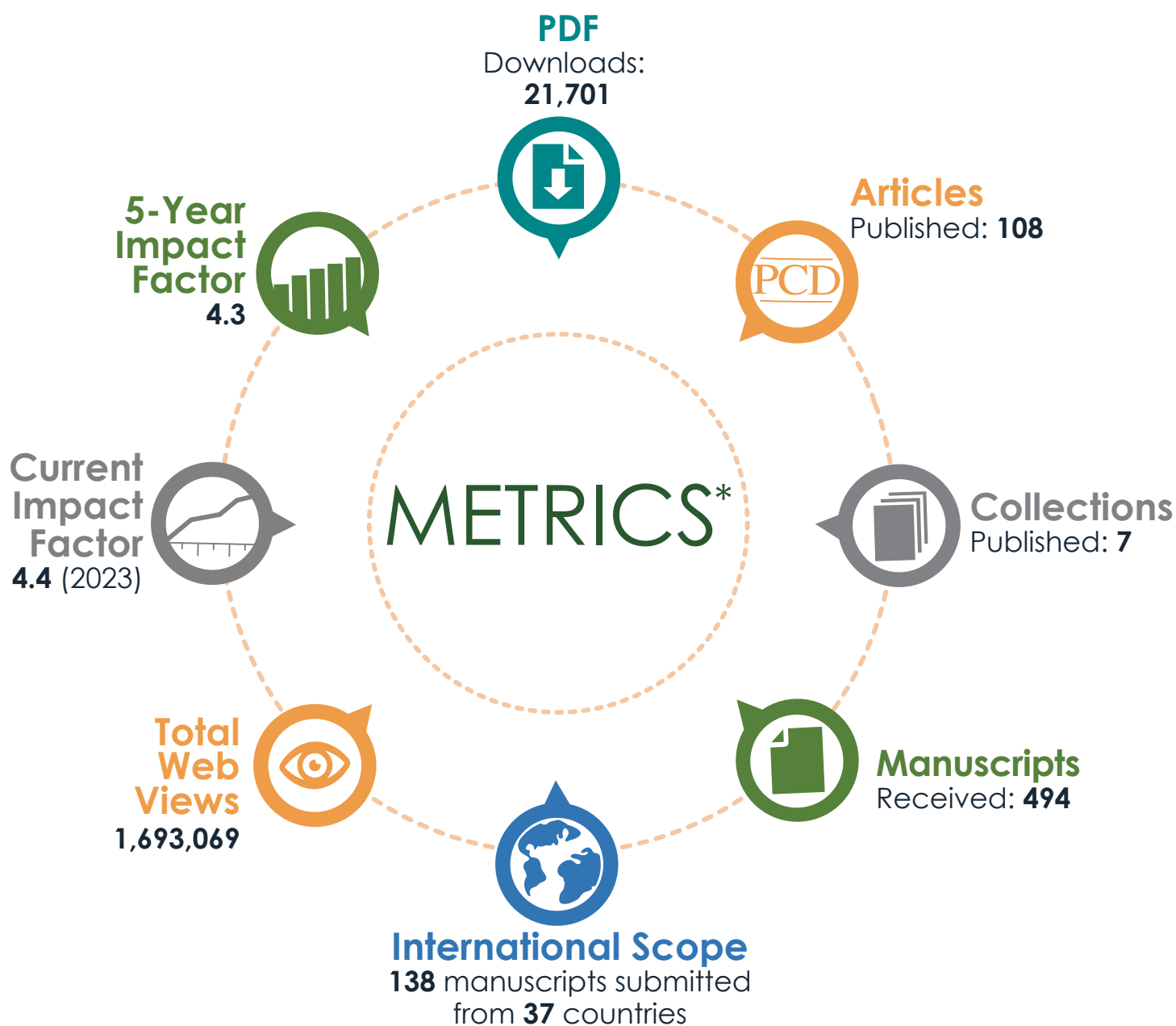
1. **Mapping Chronic Disease in the United States.** Seven peer-reviewed articles use geospatial maps to depict complex information in an easy-to-understand format on patterns, relationships, and levels of disease or behavior in geographic areas across the US.
2. **From Data to Action: National, State, and Local Efforts to End Menthol and Other Flavored Commercial Tobacco Product Use.** The 10 peer-reviewed articles in this collection enhance understanding of public health's role in reducing tobacco-related diseases and deaths, highlight surveillance data on menthol and other flavored tobacco, and provide examples of state and local activities implemented in this area.
3. **Policy, Systems, and Environmental Approaches in Chronic Disease Research and Practice.** Seven peer-reviewed articles explore how research, surveillance, and evaluation can be used to advance the use and application of policy, systems, and environmental approaches in public health.
4. **Public Health Actions to Reduce the Burden of Asthma.** Ten peer-reviewed articles highlight the history of asthma control programs funded by CDC in the US, describe the burden of asthma among those most affected, and use examples to illustrate the development, implementation, and evaluation of asthma-related interventions to improve asthma control.
5. **Preventing Chronic Disease 20th Anniversary Collection.** This collection features 32 seminal articles published in the journal over the past 20 years. Although it is impossible to feature all articles that fall into this category, those included in this collection showcase the journal's progress over the years and include articles that received a high number of citations, were most talked about in the news media or on social media, or described PCD's accomplishments and future directions. This collection features the first winners of the Dr. Lynne S. Wilcox Paper of the Year award, named for PCD's founding editor in chief, which recognizes outstanding publications from state and local health department authors.

6. **Advancing Chronic Disease Data Modernization Enhancements to Meet Current and Future Public Health Challenges.** Nine peer-reviewed articles in this collection highlight advancements in chronic disease surveillance. They emphasize the importance of collaboration and coordination among partners, describe solutions that predominantly use data from electronic health record systems, underscore the challenges of chronic disease surveillance, and discuss future considerations.
7. **2024 Student Paper Contest.** For this collection of 9 peer-reviewed articles, students at the high school, undergraduate, graduate, and other levels served as first authors. Articles address topics such as screening for colorectal cancer, mental health services among children with mental health disorders, lifestyle intervention programs for uninsured Spanish-speaking immigrants, racial and ethnic disparities in food access and dietary intake, and hospital readmissions for heart failure, COPD, myocardial infarction, and stroke.

We are also pleased to announce the winners of the 2024 Student Paper Contest, who came from the high school and doctoral categories. In the journal's high school category, Meng and Wiznitzer, authors of "Factors Associated With Not Receiving Mental Health Services Among Children With a Mental Disorder in Early Childhood in the United States, 2021–2022," reported findings about a strong link between health care factors and not receiving mental health services among children with a mental disorder in early childhood. The authors concluded that without timely treatment in early childhood, mental health disorders can impair children's learning abilities and relationships with others and may contribute to lifelong complications. Guo and colleagues produced the winning paper in the doctoral category: "Geospatial Hot Spots and Cold Spots in US Cancer Disparities and Associated Risk Factors, 2004–2008 and 2014–2018." This article identified factors with the strongest influence on creating hot spots and cold spots, including unemployment, preventable hospital stays, mammography screening, and high school education. Authors highlighted the need for targeted interventions and policies that address limited access to health care and its associated risk factors. Congratulations to this year's winners!

Looking back on PCD's evolution over the last 20 years, it is clear that the journal could not be the success it is today without the support of its volunteers and staff, past and present. We thank the journal's editorial board, associate editors, Statistics Review Committee, Student Scientific Writing and Review Training Committee, PCD subscribers, and NCCDPHP senior leadership for their steadfast support of the journal. I also want to say a special thank you to PCD's staff. They are at the core of the journal's past and future success, with many members who have been with the journal since the very beginning. PCD's staff has a combined 225 years of experience working at the journal, experience demonstrated in PCD's continued high-quality output. We are pleased to celebrate this important milestone in the history of the journal and look forward to the next 20 years.

Leonard Jack, Jr, PhD, MSc



*These metrics reflect numbers reported from January 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024.

SCOPE AND FOCUS

PCD's versatile online publication platform and relevant, rigorous research continue to set it apart from other journals in the public health arena. With each weekly release of articles, PCD continues its mission to promote dialogue among researchers, practitioners, and policy makers worldwide on the integration and application of research findings and practical experience to improve population health.

Each PCD release features articles from around the world on topics relevant to the prevention of chronic disease. This past year, the journal's most widely read articles addressed multiple topics, including the status of asthma in the US, a systematic review of adult weight loss in short-term interventions for physical activity and nutrition, and mapping the overlap of poverty level and chronic kidney disease among Medicare beneficiaries.

PCD's scope of interests evolves as the field of chronic disease prevention and health promotion advances to address the latest research, evaluation, and practice. Currently, the journal is focused on these important areas:

- Development, implementation, and evaluation of population-based interventions to prevent chronic diseases and control disease effects on quality of life, morbidity, and mortality
- Behavioral, psychological, genetic, environmental, biological, and social factors that influence health
- Interventions that reduce the disproportionate incidence of chronic diseases among at-risk populations
- Development, implementation, and evaluation of public health law and health-policy-driven interventions

The journal also anticipates releasing the following collections in 2025:

- **Emerging Issues in Public Health Research and Program Strategies for Diabetes Prevention and Management: A Blueprint for Action.** This collection will highlight recent efforts by the National Diabetes Prevention Program to prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes among those identified at higher risk, the development of effective diabetes self-management education and support services to reduce the risk of complications among people with diabetes, and recognition of the critical role that drivers of social determinants of health play in disparities in the risk of type 2 diabetes and its complications.
- **Community Engagement and Population Health: From Practice to Evaluation.** Articles in this collection will reflect on how and where community engagement has successfully occurred, including information on the populations engaged, their geographical locations, types of partners involved, community engagement strategies used, and advances in measuring community engagement.

- **Comorbidity Causes, Health Implications, and Multisystem Approaches to Treatment and Care.** Articles in this collection will cover such topics as the prevalence of multimorbidities among racial and ethnic groups, the effect of lack of access to health care on the treatment and care of comorbidities across the lifespan, and clinical or community-delivered interventions that address health behaviors that increase the risk of developing coexisting conditions.
- **American Indians and Alaska Natives: Leading Causes of Mortality in 2020.** These articles will describe methods for linking data from the National Death Index with the Indian Health Service patient registration database for the correction of racial misclassification of vital statistics data among American Indian and Alaska Native populations. They will also provide data on COVID-19–related deaths and leading causes of deaths among this population in 2020.
- **Rural Health Disparities: Contemporary Solutions for Persistent Rural Public Health Challenges.** Public health challenges have been documented in rural areas and remain persistent. These challenges include limited access to health care, excessive tobacco use in lower-income counties, limited physical activity, behavioral and mental health conditions, and major chronic diseases. The goal of this collection is to offer concrete solutions to these challenges.
- **Social Determinants of Health.** These original research articles will use data from the Social Determinants of Health module of the 2022 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System to highlight the intersectional relationships among social determinants of health, health-related social needs, and chronic diseases among adults, thus furthering the mission of NCCDPHP to prevent chronic diseases and promote the health and well-being of communities.
- **Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities.** CDC's NCCDPHP launched the Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities in 2021. Peer-reviewed articles in this collection will describe how this initiative provided technical assistance to 67 organizations across the US to support the training and deployment of community health workers and resulted in strengthening community capacity and resilience to respond during the COVID-19 crisis.
- **2025 Student Paper Contest.** This collection will feature student research related to the prevention, screening, and surveillance of chronic diseases—including arthritis, asthma, cancer, depression, diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease—and population-based interventions to control them. In addition, the collection will feature student essays discussing how to approach persistent or emerging public health challenges with new solutions.

We welcome readers to take a look at our **Call for Papers** page to learn more about the journal's upcoming publishing opportunities, including requirements and deadlines. The journal also invites regular submissions from authors at any time on topics within the journal's scope and focus. To read the latest PCD articles and learn more about submission guidelines, please see www.cdc.gov/pcd.

TOP 10 MOST POPULAR ARTICLES OF 2024*

PCD is excited to announce its most popular articles of 2024 as rated by Altmetric. Thousands of conversations about scholarly content happen online every day. Altmetric tracks a range of sources to capture, collate, and score this activity.

1. **The Status of Asthma in the United States**
2. **Estimating the Burden and Distribution of Post-COVID-19 Condition in Washington State, March 2020–October 2023**
3. **Weight Loss in Short-Term Interventions for Physical Activity and Nutrition Among Adults With Overweight or Obesity: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis**
4. **CDC's National Asthma Control Program: Looking Back With an Eye Toward the Future**
5. **Mapping the Overlap of Poverty Level and Prevalence of Diagnosed Chronic Kidney Disease Among Medicare Beneficiaries in the United States**
6. **Stroke Mortality and Stroke Hospitalizations: Racial Differences and Similarities in the Geographic Patterns of High Burden Communities Among Older Adults**
7. **Modernizing CDC's Practices and Culture for Better Data Sharing, Impact, and Transparency**
8. **Use of Menthol-Flavored Tobacco Products Among US Middle and High School Students: National Youth Tobacco Survey, 2022**
9. **Factors Associated with Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Intake Among Young Children – United States, 2021**
10. **Data for Decision Makers: Finding Policy, Systems, and Environmental Solutions for Public Health Problems**

* These articles reflect views and conversations reported from January 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024.

ABOUT THE JOURNAL

PCD is a peer-reviewed public health journal sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and authored by experts worldwide. PCD was established in 2004 by the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion with a mission to promote dialogue among researchers, practitioners, and policy makers worldwide on the integration and application of research findings and practical experience to improve population health.

PCD's vision is to serve as an influential journal in the dissemination of proven and promising public health findings, innovations, and practices with editorial content respected for its integrity and relevance to chronic disease prevention.

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