

Community Action Reports

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I am pleased to introduce **Community Action Reports**, and to be the associate editor for this new section in the *JPHD*. This exciting new section provides an opportunity for public health professionals to share firsthand with their colleagues around the world meaningful and significant experiences in the field. It will provide the dental public health community an opportunity to share significant achievements, initiatives, and programs that would normally not be published in a refereed journal or would take so long to be published that their significance is diminished. Readers will learn from the shared experiences of their colleagues and read cutting-edge articles that will help revitalize their public health vision and learn of strategies to make an impact on the communities they serve.

To put **Community Action Reports** in perspective, Webster's definitions of these terms may be helpful (1):

Community—1 all the people living in a particular district, city, etc.; 2 a group of people living together as a smaller social unit within a larger one, and having interests, work, etc., in common.

Action—1 the doing of something; state of being in motion or of working; 2 an act or thing done; 3 [p/l] behavior;

habitual conduct; 4 habitual activity characterized by energy and boldness [a man of action]; 5 the effect produced by something....

Report—1 to give an account of, often at regular intervals; 2 give information about (something seen, done, etc.); recount ...; 3 to write an account of for presentation to others or for publication, as in a newspaper; 4 to make known the presence, approach, etc. of....

In essence, **Community Action Reports** is the publication of write-ups on population-oriented activities by dental public health practitioners that have produced results.

We are looking for your success stories, pitfalls to avoid, or anything else you feel is important for others involved in dental public health to know, that they may not otherwise hear—even your failures, if this will help others. These features can involve policies, programs, strategies, or practices—basically, any activity related to dental public health that may be helpful to others. If your report already has been published elsewhere, it should not be submitted. We are interested in hearing about the experiences of our colleagues in the United States and around the world.

Submissions should be 1,000–1,500

words, or 4–5 double-spaced pages, following the *JPHD* format. Submit the piece as an E-mail attachment in Microsoft Word or rich-text format, and also send a hard copy. Please include background information such as geographic location, time interval, and basic population demographics. The submissions should be detailed enough to enable readers to incorporate your ideas and strategies into their programs. Articles should be sent to:

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Thank you for your interest in the *JPHD*. I am looking forward to receiving your submissions to **Community Action Reports** so we learn from each other and have a greater impact on the public's oral health.

Reference

1. Webster's new world dictionary of American English. 3rd ed. New York: Prentice Hall/MacMillan, 1993.