

PREVENTING CHRONIC DISEASE

PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH, PRACTICE, AND POLICY



Year in Review 2020



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF

Preventing Chronic Disease (PCD) had an incredible year in 2020. PCD received a record number of submissions, improved its impact factor, and appointed distinguished researchers, evaluators, community interventionists, health economists, statisticians, and other public health specialists to the journal's Editorial Board, the Associate Editor team, and the Statistics Review Committee. PCD fulfilled its mission of disseminating proven and promising findings, innovations, and practices in chronic disease prevention and control from around the world. In 2020, PCD received its latest Journal Impact Factor, 2.144, a jump from 2.038 the previous year in the Web of Science *Journal Citation Reports*. PCD's 5-Year Impact Factor is 2.822, very close to last year's 5-Year Impact Factor of 2.844. The journal has a Scimago Journal & Country Rank (SJR) of 22 out of 145 US journals in the category of Public, Environmental and Occupational Health; and PCD is ranked 3rd out of 19 open access US journals in this category.

PCD published high-quality peer-reviewed papers on chronic disease prevention and control efforts among children and young adults; the impact of psychological, emotional, and mental health on chronic disease management; translational research and chronic disease; and systematic reviews on timely public health topics. PCD processed 879 manuscripts (671 new submissions and 208 revised manuscripts) with an acceptance rate of 28%. PCD continued to place emphasis on manuscripts that provided insights on the development, implementation, and evaluation of population-based interventions to prevent chronic diseases and control disease effects on quality of life, morbidity, and mortality.

PCD published 4 collections that addressed long-standing and emerging public health challenges. In March, PCD published a collection on CDC's High Obesity Program—a national program that provided funding to 11 land grant universities (LGUs) in states with counties experiencing a high prevalence of adult obesity (greater than 40%). The **collection**, consisting of 9 peer-reviewed papers, details strategies implemented to improve access to healthy food and opportunities for physical activity.

The COVID-19 pandemic has raised global concerns on many fronts. In August, PCD released a special supplement featuring 16 commentaries authored by leading experts in public health, medicine, infectious disease, health disparities, health equity, pharmacy, oral health, geoscience, and beyond. Commentaries featured in **this supplement** offer early thinking in emerging public health approaches to address COVID-19 and chronic diseases.

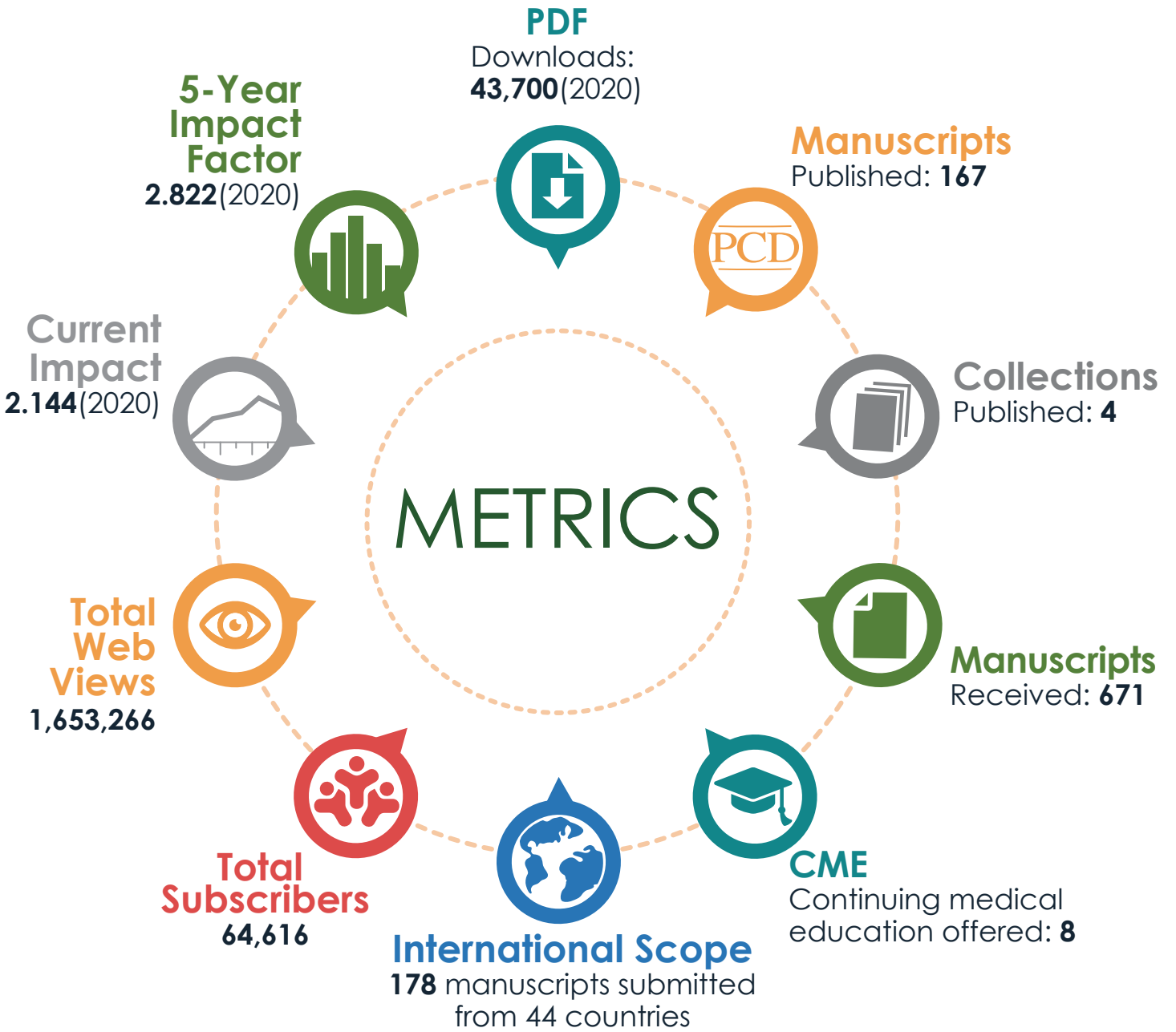
The growing burden of chronic diseases requires learning ways to expand the diversity of expertise available to help improve the nation's health. The expanded role of pharmacists will position them to have greater impact in the shifting landscape of health care and public health. Beyond the dispensing of medications, pharmacists also provide a spectrum of prevention services to help improve health outcomes. PCD wanted to highlight how the field of pharmacy, in collaboration with public health, is working to address public health related to chronic management in diverse settings. In September, PCD released a collection, "**Public Health and Pharmacy: Collaborative Approaches to Improve Population Health**," that featured 16 peer-reviewed articles offering insights into the use of pharmacists in conducting community health needs assessments, disease surveillance, and monitoring of health outcomes.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the necessity of acknowledging the role psychological well-being plays on physical health. PCD is placing greater emphasis on publishing papers that provide a deeper understanding of the many pathways through which determinants of health impact the psychological well-being of large groups of individuals. In December 2020, PCD released a collection, "**Mental Health Is a Global Public Health Issue**," featuring 10 papers examining how social, emotional, and cognitive factors influence a population's behavior, attitudes about health, and ultimately physical health.

In closing, PCD's tremendous success in 2020 would not have been possible without the contributions of its rich pool of qualified peer reviewers. PCD peer reviewers provide their expertise to the journal on a voluntary basis. More than 1,750 peer-reviewers offered their time and service to the journal in 2020, contributing their expertise to make the most informed decisions on papers submitted to the journal. We can't thank our peer reviewers enough for their contribution to the success of the journal. PCD would also like to thank the journal's Editorial Board, Associate Editors, Statistical Review Committee members, PCD staff, subscribers, and senior leadership in the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion for their unwavering support of the journal. As a result of the journal's tremendous support, PCD is well positioned to continue its effort to provide the world with peer reviewed research, evaluation, and practice content.

Leonard Jack, Jr, PhD, MSc





SCOPE AND FOCUS

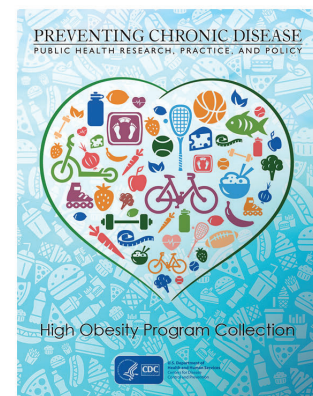
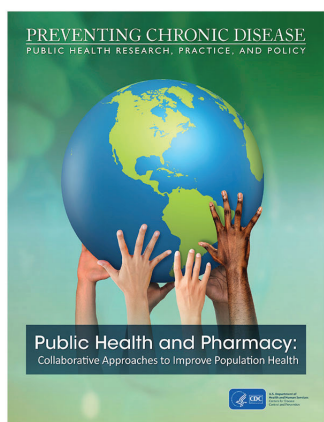
PCD's versatile electronic publication platform and relevant, rigorous research continue to set it apart from other journals in the public health arena. With each weekly release of articles, PCD continues its mission to promote dialogue among researchers, practitioners, and policy makers worldwide on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

PCD plans to publish three supplements in 2021. First, in late March, PCD will publish its first ever supplement focusing on how dental health is essential to overall health. This supplement, "Oral Health Behaviors and Availability of Dental Services Among Children and Adults," will feature 8 peer-reviewed papers providing evidence-based approaches to improving oral health for all Americans. This supplement discusses the importance of expanding access to effective prevention programs, particularly among racial/ethnic populations that experience poorer oral health outcomes. PCD understands that preventing and controlling chronic diseases remains a global public health challenge. PCD's collection, "Global Perspectives on Improving Health and Well-Being in Diverse Settings," will feature papers from around the world providing insights on the effectiveness of chronic disease-centered, community-based, and clinically driven interventions. PCD's global health collection is scheduled for release in May of 2021. Finally, health disparities exist all over the world and affect every age, race/ethnicity, and sex. In November of this year PCD will release its third supplement, featuring peer-reviewed papers emphasizing differences in and causes of poorer health outcomes historically experienced among diverse groups.

To ensure this content reaches the largest possible audience, PCD continues to be an open access journal with articles available free online. Full-text content of PCD is digitally archived each month and available via PubMed Central and CrossRef. Our articles are also available through CDC's mobile app for on-the-go access, and the journal continues to use social media as a platform for reaching public health practitioners. These vital communication efforts further PCD's influence in disseminating proven and promising public health findings, innovations, and practices with editorial content respected for its integrity and relevance to chronic disease prevention.

2020 Reviewers

PCD recognizes the enormous contribution that peer reviewers make to the success of the journal and the scientific enterprise as a whole. Our reviewers represent a broad spectrum of public health specialties with expertise in virtually every area of research and practice. We sincerely thank all of our peer reviewer consultants for their insightful critiques, thoughtful recommendations, and valuable assistance in contributing to the scientific quality and the integrity of articles published in PCD. See the full list of [2020 PCD Peer Reviewers](#).



TOP 10 MOST POPULAR ARTICLES OF 2020

Preventing Chronic Disease (PCD) is excited to announce its most popular articles of 2020 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.

01. **Men and COVID-19: A Biopsychosocial Approach to Understanding Sex Differences in Mortality and Recommendations for Practice and Policy Interventions**
02. **Trends in Adolescent Treatment Admissions for Marijuana in the United States, 2008–2017**
03. **Emergency Preparedness and Risk Communication Among African American Churches: Leveraging a Community-Based Participatory Research Partnership COVID-19 Initiative**
04. **Reaching the Hispanic Community About COVID-19 Through Existing Chronic Disease Prevention Programs**
05. **Recommendations for Keeping Parks and Green Space Accessible for Mental and Physical Health During COVID-19 and Other Pandemics**
06. **The Influence of Metabolic Syndrome in Predicting Mortality Risk Among US Adults: Importance of Metabolic Syndrome Even in Adults With Normal Weight**
07. **Oral Health and COVID-19: Increasing the Need for Prevention and Access**
08. **The Critical Need for a Population Health Approach: Addressing the Nation's Behavioral Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond**
09. **An Overview of Social Media Use in the Field of Public Health Nutrition: Benefits, Scope, Limitations, and a Latin American Experience**
10. **Community Pharmacists' Contributions to Disease Management During the COVID-19 Pandemic**



About the Journal

Preventing Chronic Disease (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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