Special Issue

Systems Approaches to Public Health: Navigating Complexity and Advancing Equity

Message from the Guest Editors

Public health challenges like pandemics, climate change, chronic diseases, and health inequalities arise from complex adaptive systems where social, technical, and biological factors interact. Systems thinking provides powerful approaches to address these issues, moving beyond linear methods that overlook key connections. However, practical applications remain limited - few interventions have been implemented or evaluated through a systems lens, leaving practitioners struggling to translate theory into action, particularly in advancing equity and addressing both "hard" (infrastructure, data) and "soft" (trust, relationships) system dimensions. This Special Issue aims to bridge this gap by moving from thinking to doing. We welcome contributions that apply systems approaches to evaluate complex interventions, implement complexity frameworks, and develop innovative methods. Submissions should demonstrate how systems thinking advances equity through processes, structures, or outcomes. This collection will support researchers, practitioners, and decision-makers in navigating uncertainty, driving systemic change, and building more resilient, equitable health futures.

Guest Editors

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About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Systems is a leading venue for the quick and global dissemination of results of cutting-edge research in various areas of systems science and systems-related fields. An increasing number of researchers are realizing the enormous potential of systems thinking in managing the many unprecedented and complex issues in all areas of need. The Systems journal provides a home of exceptional quality for the manuscripts of these researchers who often find it difficult to publish their work in conventional discipline focused journals.

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