



Editor's Note

Commentaries Help Set Agendas for Women's Health Research and Policy



In mid-2020, *Women's Health Issues* put out a call for commentaries on "Setting a Research and Policy Agenda for Women's Health: Beyond Election 2020" (Jacobs Institute of Women's Health, 2020). We encouraged authors to make evidence-based arguments and recommendations for addressing critical gaps in research and policy for the health and wellbeing of women. Authors answered the call, with submissions covering a wide range of topics. We are pleased that the compelling and thoughtful commentaries published in this issue represent the breadth of submissions received, and we look forward to receiving more submissions like the ones published in these pages.

Lois McCloskey and colleagues (2021) link the systemic problem of racism to the "chasm" between pregnancy care and health care across the life span; they report the recommendations of the Bridging the Chasm Collaborative, which range from improvements providers should make to policy changes and funding priorities for equitable, high-quality care. Two pieces discuss ways in which COVID-19 has exacerbated existing inequities and recommend policy changes as remedies: Deborah Lefkowitz and Julie S. Armin (2021) focus on women's employment, and Rachel E. Fabi and Jack Ludmir (2021) address pregnant immigrants. Finally, two commentaries examine how U.S. health officials and researchers count maternal deaths—an issue that doesn't make headlines, but one that has important implications for how the United States addresses maternal health and equity. The two groups of authors focus on different elements of the topic: Eli Y. Adashi and colleagues (2021) explain how the previous system for counting maternal deaths went awry, and Samuel Volkin and co-authors (2021) examine research findings on how enumeration changes affected maternal mortality estimates. Both groups of authors recommend ways to improve the process going forward.

Although we have made great strides in the field of women's health, new and old challenges necessitate more research, better policies, and new interventions. The editorial board of *Women's Health Issues* is grateful to authors for their insightful commentaries compelling us all to continue to ask challenging research questions and to innovate.

We continue to welcome submissions of commentaries that inform the policy and research agendas needed to improve women's health and wellbeing. To get a sense of the kinds of manuscripts we publish, we encourage prospective authors to read some of the commentaries published in this issue and other recent ones. All commentaries are free to read at whijournal.com. We look forward to publishing more evidence-based opinion pieces that help set agendas and advance women's health.

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