

AUTHOR GUIDELINES

Thank you for considering ReproSex: International Journal on Sexual and Reproductive Health as the venue for your scholarly work. To facilitate a smooth and efficient peer review, production, and publication process, we kindly ask that you review and adhere closely to the following submission guidelines. Ensuring your manuscript aligns with these requirements will help prevent delays and support a timely and successful publication.

Article Types

1. **Leading Articles:** Leading Articles are invited contributions commissioned by the Editors. These articles typically provide expert commentary, critical insights, or informed perspectives on current issues in the field of sexual and reproductive health, or on papers recently published in ReproSex: International Journal on Sexual and Reproductive Health. Leading Articles are generally limited to 1,500 to 2500 words and may include up to 20 references. The inclusion of tables or figures is not typical and should be avoided unless essential. An unstructured abstract of no more than 250 words, including 5 key words, is required, summarising the purpose, key points, and conclusions.

2. **Original Research:** Original research presents the results of original, high-quality research that contributes new knowledge to the field of sexual and reproductive health. Manuscripts should be between 3,500 and 4,500 words in length, excluding the abstract, tables, and references, and may contain up to six (6) tables and/or figures. A structured abstract of no more than 300 words is required, summarising the background, objectives, methods, results, and conclusions of the study. The main text should be organised under the following headings: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, and Discussion. Authors must provide 5 to 6 keywords or key phrases to facilitate indexing and searchability. All measurements must be reported in SI (International System of Units). Abbreviations should be defined at first mention by writing the term in full, followed by the abbreviation in parentheses. There is no limit to the number of references that can be cited.

3. Review Articles: ReproSex: International Journal on Sexual and Reproductive Health accepts narrative, systematic, and scoping review articles that offer critical, evidence-based syntheses on topics relevant to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Manuscripts should be between 3,500 and 4,500 words in length, excluding the abstract, tables, and references, and may include up to six (6) tables and/or figures. Narrative reviews should clearly describe the purpose of the review, the approach to the literature search, and provide a critical discussion of themes and findings. These reviews should reflect a balanced perspective, drawing on a wide range of credible sources. Systematic and scoping reviews should follow PRISMA or PRISMA-ScR guidelines. Ethical approval is not required for literature-based reviews. For guidance on reporting, authors are encouraged to consult the EQUATOR Network, including the PRISMA checklist (www.prisma-statement.org). All review articles will undergo double-blind peer review prior to publication.

4. Commentary: A commentary is a short, focused article that provides a critical or reflective discussion on a specific issue, recent development, published research, or policy relevant to sexual and reproductive health. Commentaries should offer fresh perspectives, highlight implications for practice or research, or stimulate scholarly debate. The text should be clear, well-argued, and supported by appropriate references where necessary. An unstructured abstract of no more than 250 words, including 5 key words, is required, summarising the purpose, key points, and conclusions. The total manuscript length shall be 1500 to 2,500 words, excluding references, tables, and figures. Authors may cite up to 10 references to support their discussion. Commentaries undergo peer review and should follow the general formatting and referencing style of the journal.

5. Brief Reports: Brief Reports include concise communications such as preliminary research findings, reports on novel techniques, innovations in programmes or interventions, and the development or application of new tools or devices relevant to sexual and reproductive health. Manuscripts in this category should not exceed 1,000 words, and may include up to three (3) tables or figures and a maximum of 10 references. An unstructured abstract of no more than 100 words must be provided. This format is ideal for timely findings or innovations that warrant rapid dissemination but may not require the depth of a full original article.

6. Case Reports: Case Reports provide detailed descriptions of unique or instructive cases that offer important insights or highlight new messages relevant to sexual and reproductive health. Submissions may describe clinical cases, as well as significant cases from the fields of public health, psychology, counselling, social work, or other behavioural and social sciences. Acceptance is based on originality, relevance, and the potential to contribute to learning, raise awareness, or challenge conventional understanding. Manuscripts should be no more than 750 words, with a maximum of one (1) table or figure, and up to five (5) references. Authorship should be limited to five contributors. ReproSex: International Journal on Sexual and Reproductive Health also considers picture-story contributions for publication. These should consist of a brief narrative (no more than 300 words), 2–3 high-quality images (in black and white or colour), and up to three references. All case reports involving individuals must include appropriate informed consent for publication, particularly when identifiable information or images are used.

7. Letters: ReproSex: International Journal on Sexual and Reproductive Health welcomes the submission of Letters that offer thoughtful commentary, critique, or additional insights related to articles recently published in the journal. Letters may also present concise, freestanding opinions or reflections on current issues relevant to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Letters should not exceed 400 words, may list up to three (3) authors, and include a maximum of five (5) references. Submissions are subject to editorial review and may be edited for clarity and length.

Criteria for Authorship

Only individuals who have made a substantial intellectual contribution to the work should be listed as authors. Authorship should be based on all four of the following criteria:

1. Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
2. Drafting the manuscript or critically revising it for important intellectual content; AND
3. Final approval of the version to be published; AND
4. Accountability for all aspects of the work, ensuring that any questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

In addition to being accountable for their own contributions, each author should be able to identify which co-author is responsible for specific parts of the work and have confidence in the integrity of the contributions made by their co-authors. All individuals designated as authors must meet all four criteria. Those who have contributed to the work but do not meet all four criteria should not be listed as authors, but their contributions should be acknowledged appropriately in the Acknowledgements section.

Ethical Approval

Authors must ensure that all research is conducted in accordance with applicable national and international laws, ethical standards, and best practice guidelines. Studies involving human participants must adhere to the principles outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki. ReproSex: International Journal on Sexual and Reproductive Health requires that all research involving human participants, human tissue, or human data receive prior approval from a recognized ethics review committee or institutional review board. The name of the approving body and the approval reference number must be clearly stated in the manuscript. If a study has been granted an exemption from requiring ethical approval, this must be explicitly stated, along with the name of the committee that granted the exemption and the rationale.

For studies involving human participants, authors must include a clear description of the informed consent process. For clinical trials, registration in a publicly accessible trial registry (e.g., ClinicalTrials.gov or other WHO-approved registries) is mandatory, and the registration number must be provided. For case reports, case series, or any publications that include identifiable images or information about individuals, ReproSex: International Journal on Sexual and Reproductive Health requires written, signed consent for publication from the individual(s) concerned or their legal guardian(s), and this must be indicated in the manuscript.

Bibliometric analyses and review articles, including systematic literature reviews, scoping reviews, and other forms of evidence synthesis that exclusively use publicly available data, do not require ethical approval or exemption statements. However, authors must ensure proper citation and responsible use of all secondary sources.

Conflict of Interest

ReproSex: International Journal on Sexual and Reproductive Health requires all authors to disclose any potential conflicts of interest, both financial and non-financial, that could influence or be perceived to influence the content, interpretation, or conclusions of their manuscript. Any declared conflicts will be published alongside the article to ensure transparency for readers. Authors must also clearly state all sources of funding that supported the research. Additionally, the specific role of the funding organization(s), if any, in the design, conduct, data collection, analysis, interpretation, and reporting of the study must be fully disclosed and published. If there is no external funding to declare, authors should include the following statement:

“The authors declare no external funding for the work.”

Funding Disclosure

All sources of funding must be clearly disclosed in the covering letter under the heading “Funding.” Authors are required to describe the role of the funding organization(s), if any, in the design of the study, the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data, the writing of the manuscript, and the decision to submit the paper for publication. If the funder had no involvement in any of these aspects, this should be explicitly stated. Transparent disclosure of funding sources and the extent of sponsor involvement is essential to uphold the integrity and credibility of the published work. If there is no external funding to declare, authors should include the following statement: No external funding was received for the conduct or publication of this study.

Data Availability Statement

ReproSex: International Journal on Sexual and Reproductive Health is committed to promoting transparency, reproducibility, and open access to research data. All authors of original research articles must include a Data Availability Statement at the end of their manuscript, clearly describing the availability of the data supporting the findings of the study. Where possible, datasets should be deposited in a publicly accessible repository that provides a persistent identifier (such as a DOI or accession number), with the repository name and link provided. If data cannot be shared openly due to ethical, legal, or privacy considerations, authors should explain these restrictions and indicate how qualified researchers may request access. The statement should accurately reflect the status of the data at the time of publication and may take forms such as: “The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available in the [NAME] repository, [DOI/link],” “The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request,” or “The data that support the findings of this study are not publicly available due to [REASON], but are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.” Authors are encouraged to follow FAIR data principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) wherever possible.

Previous Publications

Authors must disclose in the cover letter any prior publication or dissemination of content included in the submitted manuscript. This includes, but is not limited to, reworked data that has already been reported elsewhere, studies involving participants previously described in published work, or content that has been published or is under consideration for publication in another format or medium. While previous publication of some content does not automatically disqualify a submission from being considered by ReproSex: International Journal on Sexual and Reproductive Health, full transparency is essential. Editors require this information to make informed decisions about the manuscript’s suitability and to ensure responsible and efficient use of journal space. Failure to fully disclose prior or overlapping publications will be considered a breach of scientific ethics.

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5. **Ethical Considerations:** Authors must ensure that the use of AI tools does not compromise ethical standards, including issues related to plagiarism, data fabrication, or misrepresentation. The responsibility for detecting and correcting any inaccuracies introduced by AI tools lies solely with the authors.

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