

**Research Reports** in *JAAPA* should be reports of original research conducted by the author(s) and a maximum of 3,500 words, counting all text including references. *JAAPA* welcomes health services research on PAs and the PA profession, health outcomes research, and clinical research. In general, manuscripts should be prepared in accordance with the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals ([www.icmje.org/](http://www.icmje.org/)).

All research reports submitted to *JAAPA* should include the following:

**Cover letter** (may be an email). Please include complete contact information for the corresponding author, any potential conflicts of interest, all funding sources, and a statement of how each author contributed to the study. In addition, we request a brief statement of how and why the proposed research paper is relevant and of interest to a majority of clinically practicing physician assistants.

**Title page.** Include the title, names, degrees, and affiliations of all contributing authors, word counts for both the abstract and the body of the paper, and 3 to 5 key words. The key words will help us assign peer reviewers.

**Abstract.** Please structure your abstract according to the following subheadings: Objective(s), Methods, Results, Conclusions. Limit your abstract to 500 words or less. Note that your abstract will be available online and will be far more widely read than your paper.

**Introduction.** The introduction should be less than 500 words. A 3-paragraph structure is usually sufficient to convince the reader that your topic is new, important, and relevant. Your first paragraph should set the stage for the study by briefly describing the background for the circumstance surrounding the investigation. In the second paragraph, describe why your study is important, what implications it has for PA practice, and how it relates to the material in the first paragraph. In your third paragraph, state what you hope to achieve.

**Methods.** Please describe the design of your study. The following link provides some standard vocabulary and definitions from *JAMA*: [http://jama.ama-assn.org/misc/auinst\\_term.dtl](http://jama.ama-assn.org/misc/auinst_term.dtl). Please select the one that most accurately describes your study. Describe the study participants and how they were chosen. If you conducted a survey, please describe the underlying frame from which your sample was chosen and your response rate. Please clearly state the outcome of interest and how it was measured. Inform your readers of your explanatory variables and how you hypothesize they are related to your outcome.

Describe your data analysis in detail. Your analytic strategy should demonstrate your familiarity with basic biostatistical methods for continuous and categorical data. These methods include, but are not limited to, measures of central tendency and variability (mean, median, mode, variance, standard deviation, standard error) as well as measures of association (chi square statistic, correlation coefficients, rate differences, relative rates, odds ratios). If you are not comfortable with the statistical aspects of your study, you are strongly encouraged to include a co-author who is. In general, confidence intervals are to be preferred over simple *P* values. Please note that surveys utilizing all but the most

straightforward simple random samples will require statistical techniques, such as those found in SUDAAN software, to account for complex design factors.

**Results.** Results should be presented to reflect the methods section. Where possible, confidence intervals in the original clinical metric of interest are much preferred over *P* values. For example, rather than state: “Patients lived longer under PA care ( $P < .0001$ ),” it is much more informative and appropriate to say: “Patients lived 2 hours longer under PA care (95% CI, 1.9-2.1 hours).” In this way, the reader can better evaluate the clinical importance of your results.

Do not repeat results presented in graphs and tables. Please label all tables and graphs so that they are self-explanatory and could stand alone without reference to the text.

**Discussion.** Relate your results to the extant literature. Please note that our readers are clinically practicing PAs. Statistical significance is much less important or relevant to them than is clinical importance. Frame your discussion with our audience in mind.

**Limitations.** Clearly and succinctly state both the potential limitations of your study and their implications for your conclusions. If, for example, your response rate was low, how would you expect that to affect your results?

**Conclusions.** This should be a brief, at most 1-paragraph statement. Please be as explicit as possible. If, for example, you suggest more research is needed, please state precisely what the next step should be.

**Acknowledgements.** All studies involving human data require a statement of institutional review board approval or exemption. It is the author’s responsibility to ensure that all funding sources, including proprietary and for-profit entities such as pharmaceutical companies as well as not-for-profit and government funding sources, are listed in this section.

If you have further questions, please contact the editor at [tanya.gregory@haymarketmedical.com](mailto:tanya.gregory@haymarketmedical.com).

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