

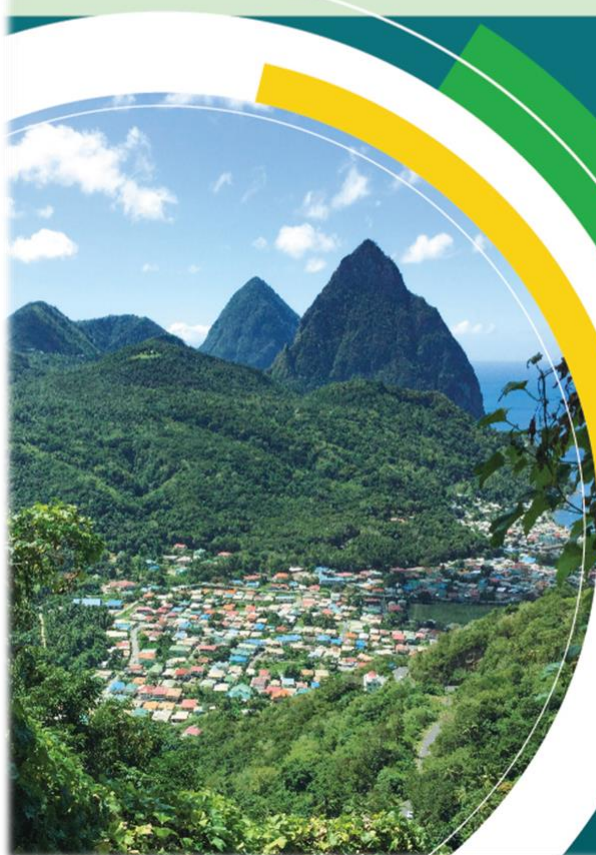
CALL FOR PAPERS

EXTENDED TO DECEMBER 31ST, 2023



68TH ANNUAL HEALTH RESEARCH CONFERENCE

APRIL 25 - 27, 2024 | SAINT LUCIA



VIOLENCE IN THE CARIBBEAN “A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS”

▶ SEE CALL FOR PAPERS GUIDELINES FOR MORE INFORMATION AND UPDATES:
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/38DHAK93](https://tinyurl.com/38DHAK93)

▶ GUIDELINES ON MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION:
[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/QTSQCGEZACQ](https://youtu.be/QTSQCGEZACQ)

Send submissions to conference@carpha.org
DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PAPERS: DECEMBER 31ST, 2023

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 68th Annual CARPHA Health Research Conference will return to the in-person modality from April 25 – 27, 2024. The theme for 2024 is **“Violence in the Caribbean: A public health crisis”**. However, we will also accept high-quality research papers on Regional Health Priority areas including:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ✓ Economics | ✓ Health Systems |
| ✓ Food Security | ✓ Infectious Diseases |
| ✓ Communicable Diseases | ✓ Implementation Studies |
| ✓ Family Health | ✓ Non-communicable Diseases |
| ✓ Health Economics | ✓ Nutrition |
| ✓ Health Policy | ✓ Climate Change and health |

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PAPERS

The deadline for receipt of papers has been extended to **December 31, 2023**.

SELECTION OF PAPERS

Papers are selected based on scientific merit and relevance to the health priorities areas of the Caribbean. Submitting Authors may request oral or poster presentation but the final assignment of accepted papers will be made by the scientific review committee.

Authors whose papers are accepted, but who do not present **will not** have their papers considered for the next two years unless they have a good reason, such as:

- acute illness
- loss or bereavement
- hardship or trauma

PRIZES

1. **The David Picou Young Researcher Prize** is awarded for the best paper presented by a Caribbean investigator who is not yet an established researcher.

The criteria for being considered is as follows:

- **Age:** 40 years or less
- **Qualifications:** At least a 1st degree, including a medical degree
- **Work experience:** Working in a health-related environment in a position considered junior; e.g. below senior lecturer/consultant grade
- **Nationality:** must be a Caribbean national; may be based in an institution abroad

Persons who wish to be considered for the David Picou prize should indicate same in their transmittal letter providing the information listed above.

2. **Donald Simeon Prize** will be awarded to the 1st and 2nd best paper presented by a student/student group. Persons who wish to be considered for the Donald Simeon prize should indicate such in the transmittal letter and provide proof of their student status.
3. **Poster Prize** is awarded for the 1st and 2nd best poster.

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

1. TRANSMITTAL LETTER

This implies that all authors have approved the publication of the abstract, edited if necessary, in a Supplement of the West Indian Medical Journal. All authors must sign the transmittal letter. Manuscripts will not be published in the West Indian Medical Journal. The email, mailing address and contact number of the corresponding author **MUST** be included.

All submissions must include a transmittal letter.

2. THE ABSTRACT

Your abstract (from Objectives to Conclusion) must be no more than **300 WORDS** and must be formatted as follows:

- a) **Title:** In bold type. No abbreviations.
- b) **Authors:** Begin on a new line two spaces below title. Use italics and list:
 - a. Initials of first names followed by surnames. Do not use full stops after initials. Omit degrees, titles and numbers.
- c) **Institution:** Begin on a new line below Authors. Use italics and list:
 - a. Institute(s) where work originated, city and country.
- d) **Email Address:** Include in the next line.
- e) **Text:** Arrange under the following sub-headings:
 - i. **Objective:**
State the main objective/research question/hypothesis of the study.
 - ii. **Design and Methods:**
Briefly describe the design of the study and how it was conducted indicating study population, sampling, procedures, measurements.
 - iii. **Results:**
Present only the main results with an indication of variability (e.g. SD) and precision of comparisons (e.g. 95% confidence intervals), where appropriate.
 - iv. **Conclusions:**
Limit to only those directly supported by the results. Be as clear and specific as possible about the “take home” messages.

Abstracts alone will not be considered. Abstracts that do not meet the above format will not be considered.

SAMPLE ABSTRACT

Title: Risk behaviours and adolescent depression in Jamaica

Authors: S Macfarlane¹, N Younger², D Francis³, G Gordon Strachan³, R Wilks³

Institutions:

¹ *Epidemiology Research Unit,*

² *Tropical Medicine Research Institute,*

³ *Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica*

Email: s.mcfarlane@uwimona.edu.jm

Objective: To assess the prevalence of depression and the associated risk factors in Jamaican youth 15-19 years.

Design and Methods: A nationally represented sample of 1317 youth aged 15-19 years was surveyed using multistage cluster sampling. Risk behaviours such as sexual activity, alcohol and marijuana use were obtained by interviewer administered questionnaire; depression was assessed using the Ministry of Health screening tool. Multivariate logistic regression was used to obtain the odds of depression for any given risk factor.

Results: Data on 1312 respondents was used for analysis (M 596, F 716), 15.5% of the youth recruited were classified as depressed (M 9.7%, F 21.3%, $p < 0.001$). Approximately 12.5% had planned, considered or attempted suicide in the past year. More than half of youth had unsafe sexual practices (M 68.2%, F 48.7%, $P < 0.001$). One fifth was involved in violent acts (M 27.2%, F 12.5% $P < 0.001$) or substance abuse (M 22.6%, F 17.4%, $p = 0.008$). Unsafe sexual practices and substance abuse doubled the likelihood of being depressed (OR 1.76 (95%CI 1.21, 2.54) and 2.31(95%CI 1.67, 3.21) respectively). Youth who were involved in violence were three times more likely to be depressed (OR 2.77 (95%CI 1.90, 4.04)). Gender specific multivariable models showed that pregnancy and violence increased the likelihood for depression in males whilst violence, drunkenness, smoking and more than one sexual partner were significant for females.

Conclusion: Youth who engage in high risk behaviours are at increased odds for depression. Programmes to involve youth in positive behaviours should be given priority to reduce the prevalence of depression.

THE MANUSCRIPT

a) LENGTH

The length of the manuscript should be 6 Pages Maximum, inclusive of Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, References and any Tables and/or Figures.

b) LAYOUT

Letter size, Portrait orientation, Single columned, Black font colour, 12 pts font, single line spacing

Papers that exceed these limits will not be considered.

We are pleased to share, as an additional resource, the recording from our Guidelines on Manuscript Preparation workshop which took place on November 15, 2023: <https://youtu.be/QtsqcGeZaCQ>

SUBMISSION

Email Transmittal letter, Abstract and Manuscript to: conference@carpha.org

Receipt of submissions will be acknowledged. If you do not receive acknowledgement within three (3) days of submission, please contact the Conference Secretariat at conference@carpha.org.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you need additional information or any clarification, please contact us at:

CARPHA Conference Secretariat

16-18 Jamaica Boulevard

Federation Park

Newtown 190324

Trinidad and Tobago

Tel: (868) 622-4261-2 or (868) 299-0895

Email: conference@carpha.org

Website: www.conference.carpha.org

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/carpha1

Follow us on Twitter: [@carpha1](https://twitter.com/carpha1)

Follow us on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/caribbean-public-health-agency/>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What are the requirements for submission?

You are asked to submit the following using the guidelines above:

- a) Transmittal letter
- b) Abstract
- c) Manuscript

2. How long should my Abstract be?

Your abstract (from Objectives to Conclusion) must be no more than 300 words.

3. How long should my Manuscript be?

The length of the manuscript should be 6 Pages Maximum, inclusive of Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, References and any Tables and/or Figures. Papers that exceed these limits will not be considered.

4. Does my paper need ethical approval prior to submission?

Yes, your paper should have received all necessary ethical approvals from the respective Research Ethics Committee(s)/Institutional Review Board(s). The confirmation of ethical approval should be included in your Manuscript.

5. Can I submit multiple papers?

Yes, certainly. There is no limit to the number of papers you can submit.

6. What type of papers qualify for submission?

*The theme for 2024 is "**Violence in the Caribbean: A public health crisis**". However, we will also accept high-quality research papers on Regional Health Priority areas including:*

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ✓ Economics | ✓ Health Systems |
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| ✓ Communicable Diseases | ✓ Implementation Studies |
| ✓ Family Health | ✓ Non-communicable Diseases |
| ✓ Health Economics | ✓ Nutrition |
| ✓ Health Policy | ✓ Climate Change and health |

7. Can I submit an already published paper?

No, you cannot submit an already published paper. We encourage submission of research which has not yet been published.

The CARPHA Annual Health Research Conference only publishes the abstracts in a special supplement of the West Indian Medical Journal (WIMJ). You can view the abstracts published in the WIMJ for the 2022 conference here:

<https://www.mona.uwi.edu/fms/wimj/supplements>

Manuscripts will not be published; but you are encouraged to consider submitting your manuscript for publication in a peer reviewed journal, such as the WIMJ or the Caribbean Medical Journal (CMJ).

8. When will I know if my paper is accepted?

After submitting your paper for review and consideration by the Research Advisory Committee, you will receive a communication on the status of your submission approx. 3- 4 weeks after the Call for Papers deadline date.

9. Where will the Conference Event 2024 be held?

The host country for this year's Conference is St. Lucia. The venue for the event is currently being decided.

10. What are the dates for the 2023 Conference?

The 2024 Conference will be held from April 25 – 27, 2024.

11. Where can I get more information about the Conference?

You can write to: conference@carpha.org or visit our website for further information at: <https://conference.carpha.org/> where conference details will be uploaded as soon as it becomes available.

We look forward to receiving your submission and subsequent participation at next year's Conference.