

# HOW TO WRITE A SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACT

## What is the Purpose of an Abstract?

Abstracts are important for communicating scientific findings with brevity to colleagues and stakeholders.

## When Should We Write Scientific Abstracts?

Consider writing an abstract when there are results or lessons learned from your work that can inform how others practice public health.

## There are 4 goals an abstract should achieve:

- 1 Understand **how** you conducted the study
- 2 Understand **why** you conducted the study
- 3 Explain **what** you found
- 4 Understand **why** your work is important

## What is Included in the Abstract?

An abstract has four short sections that align with the sections of a full manuscript: the background, methods, results, and conclusion. You do not have to have a finished manuscript to write an abstract but each part should be included to ensure that the abstract is providing details the full scope of the research being discussed.

## Important Considerations



### Audience

*Who is the intended audience you are writing for?*



### Past Tense

*Are you writing in the past tense?*



### Bias

*Are you presenting your results without bias?*

## 1. BACKGROUND

This first section should include the **what** and **why** of the issue you are addressing in a manner that is relevant and concise. Some guiding questions include:

1. *What is already known about the subject, related to the focus of the study?*
2. *What is the gap in knowledge about the subject?*
3. *What is the purpose of the study?*

## 2. METHODS

The methods should summarize **what** and **how** the study was done. Components that should be included:

- Sampling Frame
- Data Source(s)
- Dates of Study
- Outcome Measures
- The Types of Statistical Analysis Used
- Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

## 3. RESULTS

The results section should tell the story and **what happened and the outcomes** of your research.

- *Response rates and metrics of data quality should be included*
- *Feature the data that aligns most with the variable associated with the hypothesis and highlight findings that support or fail to support the hypothesis*

## 4. CONCLUSION

The conclusion is the final section of the abstract and should **summarize** the primary take home message and any other important findings. This section should always include:

- *Implications of your findings for public health practice*
- *Any call to action or recommendation for prevention and control*

## Reviewing your Abstract



Have you checked for any grammatical errors or misspellings? Are you within the word count limit?



Have others read and provided feedback on your abstract? Has the feedback been incorporated?



Is your hypothesis or statement of purpose clearly stated to provide context to the project goals and understand the importance of your findings?



Do the results and conclusions clearly support your hypothesis or statement of purpose?

## Ready to Submit?

Once you have completed your abstract, head to the CSTE Conference website for more information about abstract requirements and submission guidelines for our Annual Conference.



[www.csteconference.org](http://www.csteconference.org)