

# Gender gap for first authors of perspectives in peds journals

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(HealthDay)—Women are underrepresented among physician first

authors of perspective-type articles in prominent pediatric journals, according to a study published online July 20 in *JAMA Network Open*.

Julie K. Silver, M.D., from Harvard Medical School in Boston, and colleagues examined the gender-related profile associated with authors of perspective-type articles published in the four highest-impact general pediatric journals—*Academic Pediatrics*, *JAMA Pediatrics*, *The Journal of Pediatrics*, and *Pediatrics*—between 2013 and 2017 to determine whether women physicians were underrepresented.

The researchers identified 425 perspective-type articles, with physicians listed as the first [author](#) on 79.5 percent. Among first-author physicians of known gender, women were underrepresented (41.7 percent). This underrepresentation was particularly noted among [physician](#) first authors of articles categorized as scholarly versus narrative in nature.

Furthermore, women were underrepresented among last authors and co-authors of articles attributed to both men and women physician first authors, but this underrepresentation was more pronounced if a man physician was the first author.

"Because perspective-type articles provide an opportunity for authors to express their opinions, provide insights that may influence their field, and enhance their academic resumes, there is a need for pediatric journal editors and leaders of medical societies who are associated with these journals to ensure the equitable inclusion of [women](#) in medicine," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text Editorial](#)

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