

## Special Issue

# Smoking and Tobacco Use: A Health Equity Perspective

### Message from the Guest Editor

Tobacco use continues to be the leading preventable cause of death and disease globally. While the past several decades have witnessed a decline in the prevalence of tobacco use, certain marginalized and minoritized populations continue to experience high rates of tobacco use, making tobacco use a health equity issue. Reasons contributing to these disparities include socioeconomic factors, structural racism, targeted tobacco ads to certain sub-groups, and barriers in uniform access to evidence-based cessation services. Moreover, low-income individuals, racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and those with mental health issues face unique barriers to successfully quitting smoking/tobacco use, thereby exacerbating tobacco-related health disparities. To advance health equity, we must explore policies, innovative interventions, and research to address these barriers, while examining the efficacy of innovative and adapted interventions tailored for these sub-groups of individuals.

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### Guest Editor

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### Deadline for manuscript submissions

31 January 2026



## International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health

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CiteScore 8.5  
Indexed in PubMed



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*International Journal of  
Environmental Research and  
Public Health*

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### Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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