

Demographics

***1. How many years of experience do you have as an epidemiologist?**

- ☐ <2
- ☐ 2 to 4
- ☐ 5 to 9
- ☐ 10 to 14
- ☐ 15 to 19
- ☐ 20+

***2. What is the highest degree you have obtained?**

- ☐ MD, DO
- ☐ DDS, DMD
- ☐ DVM, VMD
- ☐ PhD, DrPH, other doctoral
- ☐ MPH, MSPH, other master
- ☐ RN, any other nursing
- ☐ BA, BS, BSN, other bachelor
- ☐ Associate/No post high school degree

***3. What is the highest level of epidemiology training you have received?**

- ☐ PhD, DrPH, other doctoral degree in Epidemiology
- ☐ Professional background (e.g. MD) with a dual degree in Epidemiology
- ☐ MPH, MSPH, other master degree in Epidemiology
- ☐ BA, BS, other bachelor degree in Epidemiology
- ☐ Completed formal training program in Epidemiology (e.g. EIS)
- ☐ Completed some coursework in Epidemiology
- ☐ Received on the job training in Epidemiology
- ☐ No formal training in Epidemiology (e.g. epidemiologist does not fit into any of the above categories)

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***4. What best describes your place of work?**

- ☐ Local Public Health Agency
- ☐ State Public Health Agency
- ☐ Tribal Public Health Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Academia
- ☐ Non-Governmental Organization
- ☐ Other (please specify)

***5. Do you have an appointment at a university or academic center?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

***6. Are you a CSTE member?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

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Scientific Writing Experience

Please refer to the definitions below for the following key terms when selecting your responses for this assessment.

- A **report** is defined as any document that is developed with the intention of relaying specific information and may include technical writing such as fact sheets or instruction manuals.
- A **manuscript** is defined as a compilation of original scientific findings that is often submitted to a journal and may include abstracts.
- **Public use** refers to a report or manuscript published or distributed through any route that is not a peer reviewed publication.
- **Peer reviewed journals** are publications that require submitted content to be reviewed by experts in the field, who are not a part of the editorial staff, prior to publication. Some examples of peer reviewed journals include *American Journal of Public Health*, *American Journal of Epidemiology*, *Journal of Epidemiology* and *Community Health*.
- **CDC specific publications** include the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR), *Emerging Infectious Diseases* (EID), and *Preventing Chronic Disease* (PCD) that may or may not be peer reviewed.

*7. Please indicate which areas you have had experience in (Check all that apply).

- ☐ Creating a report or manuscript for public use (not peer reviewed)
- ☐ Submit a report or manuscript to peer reviewed journals
- ☐ Publish a report or manuscript in peer reviewed journals
- ☐ Submit a report or manuscript to CDC specific publications (MMWR, EID, PCD)
- ☐ Publish a report or manuscript in CDC specific publications (MMWR, EID, PCD)
- ☐ None

*8. Please rate (on a scale from none to expert) your experience in each area below related to scientific writing for public use (not peer reviewed).

	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Expert
Writing a report for public use	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Editing a report for public use	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Submitting a report for public use	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Knowledge to prepare a report for public use	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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***9. Please rate (on a scale from none to expert) your experience in each area below related to scientific writing for peer reviewed journals.**

	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Expert
Writing a report or manuscript for publication	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Editing a report or a manuscript for publication	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Submitting a report or manuscript for publication	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Knowledge to prepare a report or manuscript for publication	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

***10. Please rate (on a scale from none to expert) your experience in each area below related to scientific writing for CDC specific publications (MMWR, EID, PCD).**

	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Expert
Writing a report or manuscript for publication	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Editing a report or a manuscript publication	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Submitting a report or manuscript for publication	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Knowledge to prepare a report or manuscript for publication	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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Agency Support of Scientific Writing

***11. What types of scientific writing are expected as part of your job duties? (Select all that apply.)**

- ☐ Internal agency use: reports, summaries, program documentation, grant writing
- ☐ General public (external of agency): Reports, summaries, media (websites), plain language documents for the general public
- ☐ Publications for peer review
- ☐ Publications for CDC (*Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR), *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, *Preventing Chronic Disease*)
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other (please specify)

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***12. Please rate (on a scale from strongly disagree to strongly agree) to what extent you agree with the below statements.**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I desire to pursue writing activities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I desire to pursue publishing activities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My place of work encourages writing and publishing activities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My place of work has a structured process for reviewing and approving publications	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I have access to peer reviewed literature	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I have previous writing experience	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I have previous publishing experience	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am allowed time at work for writing and publishing activities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My colleagues and I collaborate as peer editors	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The peer review publication process is easy	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The publication process for MMWR is easy	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My writing and/ or publishing activities are tied to funding requirements	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My writing and/ or publishing activities are tied to legislative requirements	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My writing and/ or publishing activities are tied to career development requirements	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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***13. Please rate the following items in terms of how much of a barrier (if any) each is to writing and publishing in your current position on a scale from not a barrier to a major barrier.**

	N/A	Not a barrier	Minor barrier	Moderate barrier	Major barrier
Time	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Access to peer reviewed literature	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Knowledge on how to submit to a peer-reviewed publication	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lack of previous writing experience	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lack of previous publishing experience	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Agency clearance or approval process	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lack of encouragement or agency support	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Costs associated with submitting an article for publishing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

***14. How does your agency currently support your writing and publishing activities? Check all that apply.**

	Resources currently provided
Dedicated time	☐
Access to peer reviewed literature	☐
Access to technical writers	☐
Access to editors	☐
Training opportunities to improve scientific writing and publishing skills	☐
Journal club to encourage publishing and peer review	☐
Access to a mentoring network of experienced writers from state and local health departments	☐
Templates for general publications	☐
Best practice examples of supportive organizational culture to foster writing and publishing activities	☐
Best practice models of supportive writing resources within health departments	☐
None	☐
Other	☐
Other (please specify)	

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*15. What resources would improve your ability for scientific writing and publishing?

Check all that apply.

	Desired resources
Dedicated time	☐
Access to peer reviewed literature	☐
Access to technical writers	☐
Access to editors	☐
Training opportunities to improve scientific writing and publishing skills	☐
Journal club to encourage publishing and peer review	☐
Access to a mentoring network of experienced writers from state and local health departments	☐
Templates for general publications	☐
Best practice examples of supportive organizational culture to foster writing and publishing activities	☐
Best practice models of supportive writing resources within health departments	☐
None	☐
Other	☐

Other (please specify)

*16. What training would improve your ability for scientific writing and publishing?

(Select all that apply.)

- ☐ Technical writing
- ☐ Grant writing
- ☐ Plain language writing
- ☐ Editing
- ☐ Navigating the various formats of peer reviewed journals
- ☐ Knowing what journal to submit to
- ☐ Responding to reviewers' comments
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other (please specify)

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17. If CSTE created a toolkit to assist epidemiologists with writing and publications challenges, what tool/s would you want to see included?

18. Please list and describe any resources you use or are available to support writing and publishing activities that would be beneficial for sharing with others.

Thank you for completing our assessment. If you have questions about this assessment, please contact Jessica Pittman (jpittman@cste.org).