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Opinion Piece

The rise of a mega-journal in public health publishing

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Key points

- In recent years, public health has experienced a rapid increase in articles produced by the [International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health](#).
- The journal now accounts for around 15% of the documents in the Scimago Journal and Country Rank *Public Health, Environmental and Occupational Health* category.
- The journal's success in attracting authors appears to reside in its ability to rapidly publish manuscripts after brief review.
- Acceptance rates also appear to be unaffected by the volume of submissions.
- An academic publishing process focused primarily on speed provides no guarantee of quality, especially if the emphasis is on sheer volume of papers produced.
- This has the potential to fundamentally weaken the knowledge base of public health which, in turn, will undermine public health practice and policy.

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