



GP RED Research Briefs Guidelines

GP RED welcomes original research, case studies, analyzed practice experiences, and/or summary analyses to help translate findings and management implications from research to practice. We maintain a national direct email list for distribution to over 8,000 parks and recreation practitioners, academicians, design, public health, and related professionals.

Think of yourself as a journalist reporting on the research or best practices from the field. From a journalistic perspective, what makes the research interesting? Informative? Useful? Try to capture the essence of the research with an intriguing title. You can develop a journalistic tone by using short, pithy sentence construction. Vary sentence length. If you can say it in fewer words, then do so. If you can say it with one or two syllable words (rather than three and four syllable words), then please do so.

We accept both solicited and unsolicited manuscripts. However, we reserve the right to reject a Research Brief if it is not appropriate or does not meet rigorous research and writing standards. We also reserve the right to heavily edit a manuscript to fit the style intended for Research Briefs.

Background and Guidelines

The Mission of GP RED is to facilitate the creation of interdisciplinary, innovative, practical management tools and strategies intended to enhance and promote integration of health, recreation, and land management industries through research, education, and development. To that end, one of the initiatives of GP RED is to publish Research Briefs that are journalistic summaries of the current state of research and/or methods as they relate to promoting practices that help communities thrive. .

Research Briefs highlight and present overviews of significant studies, programs, and policies using evidence-based approaches. They are aimed at practitioners as a summary of a single study that may or may not have been previously published, or a synopsis/review of research relative to a topic with an emphasis on what the research means and how to use it in the management of services. All briefs will appear in on-line versions and distributed to the GP RED national email list. See <http://www.gpred.org/research-briefs/> for examples of previous briefs.

Briefs are evaluated by experts in the field including the GP RED Operating Board. The reviews are not blind but designed to assist the author(s) to write clear, concise, and practice-oriented summaries.

Research Briefs should be limited to no more than 2500 words and have a journalistic style and tone. Briefs report on the implications of the reviewed research for management, thinking, and practice. Research Brief authors are encouraged to cite outside sources to support any interpretations they make. Images and graphics, including citing the appropriate source, are welcome. These may include figures, photos, or infographics.

A **short abstract** (150-200) words should precede the body of the Research Brief. It should provide a statement of the purpose of the Brief and highlight important findings/messages.

Each Research Brief should address these five (5) headings:

Research/Project Overview. This section should include the first 1-2 paragraphs of the Brief and frame the study or projects being reviewed. Begin the first paragraph with a “hook” for the reader. You may want to pose a question that has direct applicability, or highlight the implications of the research up front. The second paragraph should describe the key research questions or concepts examined, the central assumptions of the research/project, and why this topic warrants a Research Brief. The general purpose of the Brief should be clearly stated.

Study Design and Method. In one or two paragraphs provide a concise overview of the sample(s), design(s), and methodologies. Details about the data analysis should be minimal unless this information is essential to any conclusions drawn.

Key Findings. Present the general findings, focusing on the most important results.

Conclusions and Implications. Provide a concise summary of the conclusions and limitations. If desired, provide your own interpretation, observations, or commentary about the topic by highlighting key issues or “takeaways.”

References. Include any original studies or sources cited in a Reference section. For all references, please use APA style (www.apastyle.org).

**Please contact GP RED Research Briefs Editor, Karla Henderson, PhD
(karla_henderson@ncsu.edu), with any additional questions.**