Editorial
Journal of Rafsanjan University of Medical Sciences
Vol. 24, April 2025, 1-2

An Introduction to Policy Brief

Mohsen Rezaeian[1]

A "policy brief" is a short but impactful text, written by utilizing scientific evidence and the practical experiences of its author(s) to influence policymakers. The authors of a policy brief make every effort to introduce actionable activities to policymakers within their sphere of responsibility, so they can resolve problems related to a political decision or, at the very least, minimize them (1).

A policy brief is usually written by experts in a specific field. These individuals can include researchers and scientists who have conducted various studies in that specific domain for years and have gained extensive experience. Furthermore, non-governmental organizations can develop policy briefs within their areas of expertise to influence decision-makers (1).

A policy brief, which can start at two pages and in some cases extend to eight pages, presents policy solutions to politicians in 1,000 to 4,000 words using simple language. Practically, the structure of a policy brief consists of a title, an objective, selected policies, and the intended key consequences. Additionally, a policy brief should include an explanation of these selected policies and their strengths and weaknesses, an explanation of how the policy brief was prepared (the methodology of preparing the policy brief), and other important points that should be considered (2).

Finally, acknowledgments, conflict of interest, and the resources used in preparing the policy brief constitute its concluding sections. To maximize impact, bullet points and attractive images can be used in the preparation of a policy brief. Also, by using various headings and subheadings, it is possible to facilitate faster and more accurate reading (2).

Given the importance and status of policy briefs in decision-making within the health sector, the Journal of Rafsanjan University of Medical Sciences will henceforth include the peer review and publication of these articles on its agenda. For the esteemed readers and authors of the University Journals to become more familiar with how to write a policy brief in health and to read examples of such articles, they can refer to the third through fifth references of this editorial (3-5).

Citation: Rezaeian M. An Introduction to Policy Brief. *J Rafsanjan Univ Med Sci* 2025; 24 (1): 1-2. doi: 10.66224/jrums.24.1.1.

[Downloaded from journal.rums.ac.ir on 2026-11-18]

[DOI: 10.61186/jrums.24.1.1]

1- Prof., Dept. of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Health, Occupational Environment Research Center, Rafsanjan University of Medical Sciences, Rafsanjan, Iran, ORCID: 0000-0003-3070-0166, Tel: (034) 31315243, E-mail: moeygmr2@yahoo.co.uk

References

1. Ndihokubwayo K. Know How to Write an Influential Policy Brief: A Systematic Guide to Writers and Readers. Journal of Classroom Practices 2023; 2(2): 1-10.
2. World Health Organization. A Recommended Template for Developing Policy Briefs. World Health Organization: WHO, EMRO. 2021.
3. Wong SL, Green LA, Bazemore AW, Miller BF. How to write a health policy brief. Fam Syst Health 2017; 35(1): 21-4.
4. Cratsley K, Mackey TK. Health policy brief: Global mental health and the United Nations' sustainable development goals. Fam Syst Health 2018; 36(2): 225-9.
5. Al-Delaimy WK, Krzyzanowski M. A Policy Brief: Climate Change and Epidemiology. Epidemiology 2019; 30(1): 1-3.

[Downloaded from journal.rums.ac.ir on 2026-11-18]

[DOI: 10.61186/jrums.24.1.1]

CCBY-NC.4.0 DEED