EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. Background and rationale for study (0-2 points)
   - Is the problem clearly described and of high public health importance?

2. Methods (0-8 points)
   - Are epidemiologic comparisons clearly stated?
   - Are critical definitions clearly stated or obvious (for example, case, principal exposure)?
   - Do the selected methods correspond with the nature of study and study questions?
   - Is a clear and easy-to-follow sequence of methods presented?
   - Are essential methods described with precision and avoid undefined terms or jargon?
   - Overall methods: where they appropriate and adequately described?
     Data Analysis/Statistics: where they appropriate and adequately described (p-values, confidence limits, etc.)
   - Originality: was the study/investigation cutting edge/novel approach?

3. Results (0-2)
   - Are the results relevant to the problem and reported in sufficient detail?

4. Recommendations (0-2)
   - Are the recommendations clear, feasible and supported by the results?

5. Impact (0-4)
   - Will this study/investigation produce a change in practice or policy?
   - Was an effect on the health of the population at risk demonstrated or reported?

6. Overall Impression (0-6)
   - Is the writing clear and brief?
   - Is there a logical sequence and cohesiveness among all abstract sections?
   - Are proper and simple terms used to describe methods and discuss findings