Call for Papers


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A Full-Spectrum Prevention Approach to Maternal Substance Use

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The powerful influence a healthy mother has on her child and society can never be underestimated. When a mother’s ability to influence her child in a positive manner is interrupted by substance use, external supports must step in to provide support and mitigate potential negative consequences. Today, this is characterized by multi-sector, system-wide strategies for addressing identified needs. Maternal substance use effects permeate the lives of children, families, communities, and our healthcare system at large. A full-spectrum prevention approach may involve strategic and intentional collaboration among education, health, safety, local, state, and governmental agencies.

This special issue of the Journal for Applied Research on Children will focus on articles contributing to a full-spectrum prevention approach to maternal substance use across key sectors within a community. Evidence-based ideas and programs encompass the spectrum from universal measures for preventing onset of use in the children of substance-using mothers, to best practices for mothers with substance use disorders within criminal justice settings. The purpose of this themed issue is to use available evidence to explore possible strategies for a comprehensive prevention model for maternal substance use.

The Journal of Applied Research on Children is available online in an open-access format (jarc.childrenatrisk.org) and is indexed in CINAHL and SocINDEX, making it available to child advocates, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers across America. Since its launch, journal articles have been downloaded over 165,000 times worldwide. The submission and rigorous double-blind peer review process are completed entirely online. Authors are encouraged to take advantage of the journal’s online format by including videos, interactive charts, or links to online resources.

We encourage interested authors to submit an abstract or letter of interest to the managing editor at jarc@childrenatrisk.org by April 29, 2020. If the abstract is approved, full manuscripts will be due August 12, 2020. To view past issues of the journal or to submit a manuscript, please visit jarc.childrenatrisk.org.