Call for Papers

Journal of Family Strengths

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COVID 19 and the Increase in Domestic Violence

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Published by CHILDREN AT RISK, Prairie View A&M University, and the Texas Medical Center Library and edited by the CHILDREN AT RISK Institute, the Journal of Family Strengths (JFS) serves to inform policy and practice affecting children and families by providing applicable research to practitioners, child advocates, policymakers, and the public on timely children and family issues. Providing practical case studies and research on the transformative potential of program and policy change, JFS issues provide a strengths perspective centered on improving services that promote and sustain family systems.

Has COVID-19 caused a disaster within a disaster? While many were focused on saving the lives of those stricken by the virus, others were being killed by their intimate partners. What happens when there is nowhere to run? How can one reach out for help, when everyone they would have reached out to is also isolated? How did domestic violence prevention change during the pandemic? How did changes in employment and family finances impact domestic violence trends? How did depression, anxiety, and low self-control influence the manifestation of violence in families in 2020 to 2021? What needs to change if these pandemic circumstances are prolonged or repeated at some point to save lives?

For the JFS Volume 21, Issue 1, the CHILDREN AT RISK Institute is seeking manuscripts that focus on men, women, and children in isolation with abusers. Has teen dating violence decreased, because of the quarantine and lockdown activities? Some say if COVID-19 had never appeared, many would have lived long, fruitful lives. Would some of the people that are now labeled as abusers or killers have ever held that title if it were not for the conditions and outliers of COVID-19?

Manuscripts should also describe, if applicable, new programs and practices designed to address innovative ways to reach and help men, women, and children isolated with those that could potentially abuse and/or kill them. This issue will provide a space for both scholars and practitioners/professionals to discuss the reaction to the pandemic in the United States and the rest of the world and their reaction to domestic violence and domestic homicide within the pandemic. Additionally, this issue will contribute to the limited but emerging literature in the area of self-control and coping mechanisms in a pandemic.

The Journal of Family Strengths is available online in an open-access format and is available to child advocates, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers across America. It has been accessed in 167 countries in 2020, with approximately 28,000 downloads.

We encourage interested authors to submit an abstract or letter of interest to the managing editor at jfs@childrenatrisk.org by June 30, 2021. If the abstract is approved, full manuscripts will be due September 1. To view past issues of the journal or to submit a manuscript, please visit jfs.childrenatrisk.org.