Call for Papers

Journal of Family Strengths

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Special Issue: Mental Health and the Intersectionality of Race and Gender of Crossover Youth

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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.

Crossover youth define a unique population of adolescents who have experienced child maltreatment and engage in juvenile delinquency regardless of whether the contact is concurrent or non-concurrent. There is a history of persistent overrepresentation of Black youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems respectively. It makes sense then, that Black youth are also disproportionately represented among crossover youth. The lived experiences of Black crossover youth indicate a heightened vulnerability to mental health challenges brought about by systemic challenges such as extended lengths of stay in foster care, higher likelihood for placement in structured congregate settings, and forced separation from family. These factors, coupled with structural racialized and gendered trauma, can negatively impact outcomes for these youth into their adulthood.

For the JFS Volume 21, Issue 2, the CHILDREN AT RISK Institute is seeking manuscripts that focus on Black crossover youth through the lens of anti-racist frameworks (CRT, Black feminism, etc.), their unique challenges with multi-system involvement, and impact on their mental health (identity development and mental well-being, etc.). Furthermore, manuscripts which address challenges for youth with intersectional racial and gendered identities (Black females, LGBTQIA+, etc.), are encouraged. Manuscripts should also discuss strengths and empowerment characteristics of Black crossover youth and families, with considerations for upstream strategies, innovative programs, and policy recommendations/implications which best serve Black crossover adolescents. Ultimately, this issue will contribute to emerging, yet limited literature on the specific needs of Black crossover youth.

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 September 28, 2022. If the abstract is approved, full manuscripts will be due January 25, 2023. To view past issues of the journal or to submit a manuscript, please visit jfs.childrenatrisk.org.