

Call for Papers

Journal of Family Strengths

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Substance Abuse and the Family

Editors-in-Chief:

Robert Sanborn (CHILDREN AT RISK)
Camille Gibson (Prairie View A&M
University)

Guest Editors:

Dr. Myrna Cintron, Department of Justice Studies, Prairie View A&M University
Dr. Andrea McDonald, Division of Public Health and Health, School of Public and Allied Health, Prairie View
A&M University
Dr. Lenna Dawkins-Moultin, MD Anderson Cancer Center

The Journal of Family Strength is published by CHILDREN AT RISK, Prairie View A&M University, and the Texas Medical Center Library. It is edited by the CHILDREN AT RISK Institute. The Journal of Family Strengths (JFS) serves as a platform to inform policy and practice affecting children and families through relevant research for practitioners, child advocates, policymakers, and the public on current issues related to children and families. The 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.

The Journal of Family Strengths is pleased to announce a forthcoming Special Issue to be published in February 2025, focused on substance abuse and its impact on youth and families. This special issue aims to explore the multifaceted impacts of substance abuse on youth and their families, addressing both individual and collective challenges and identifying strategies for prevention and intervention. For this call, substance abuse – impact on youth and, or families can be understood as problematic substance use (tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs, prescription drugs) among youth, which leads to various problems within and outside the family. These include the psychological and emotional effects on youth and family members; influence on family dynamics and relationships, mental and physical health; failure to meet expected youth responsibilities at school, home, or work; and risky behaviors such as unprotected sex and impaired driving. These behaviors can have long-term consequences, especially if youth are introduced to the juvenile justice system. The negative impacts affect the youth, the family, and communities.

We welcome manuscripts that explore theory, research, and practical interventions pertaining to these topics. Our journal is open to a diverse range of research designs, including qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods. We also accept legal or practice case studies, theoretical papers.

We anticipate research from the following disciplines: Criminology, Criminal Justice, Education, Legal Studies, Public Health, Psychology, Social Sciences, Social Work, and other Social Sciences.

Key Areas of Interest:

1. Exploration of behaviors that heighten the risk of substance abuse, such as peer pressure, early exposure to substances, and co-occurring mental health issues.
2. Evaluations of programs aimed at preventing substance abuse or supporting affected families.
3. Investigations into how cultural and socioeconomic factors influence substance abuse and its impacts.
4. Examination of the psychological and social consequences of substance abuse on youth and their families.
5. Novel approaches to understanding and addressing substance abuse in youth and families.

Authors are encouraged to collaborate with scholars and practitioners across disciplines to create pieces that have both a wide audience and an interdisciplinary approach.

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

We encourage interested authors to submit an abstract or letter of interest to the managing editor at jfs@childrenatrisk.org by **October 15, 2024**. If the abstract is approved, full manuscripts will be due **November 30, 2024**. To view past issues of the journal or to submit a manuscript, please visit <https://childrenatrisk.org/research/academic-journals/>