



APA PsycInfo® Topic Guide

SOCIAL WORK

Topics in APA PsycInfo of Relevance to Social Work

APA PsycInfo is a research database published by the American Psychological Association. Social workers in public service and private practice can use it to find information on working with clients with a wide variety of needs.

Sample Searches in Social Work

Scenario: A licensed social worker has just started a counseling job in a region with a high population of immigrant families, and would like to learn more about how best to work with them.

Search: *Social Casework
AND Immigration*

Results: Articles on topics such as the motivations behind immigration, cross-cultural interactions, and legal issues to consider. Includes articles focused on working with specific ethnic populations.

Scenario: A student volunteer at a community center is helping the center's social worker make a case for offering health care services to the local homeless population.

Search: *Homeless AND Health
Service Needs*

Results: Articles presenting research into the health care needs of the homeless, as well as studies looking at the efficacy of particular programs. Results include studies looking at both physical and mental health.

Scenario: A school counselor would like to know more about how a child's well-being is affected when social services staff is working to keep a struggling family together

Search: *Child Welfare AND Family
Preservation*

Results: Studies looking at the impact of family preservation work on children and research into why and how these types of interventions succeed or fail. Includes articles looking at parent behaviors.



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Selected Search Terms

The search terms provided here are just a few excerpts from the many relevant terms in APA's *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*®. If you aren't sure how to use these terms (called Subject Terms, Subject Headings, or Index Terms depending on your interface), check with your librarian or consult the APA PsycInfo Quick Reference Guide.

Child Welfare

- Adoption (Child)
- Child Abuse Reporting
- Child Custody
- Child Visitation
- Family Preservation
- Foster Care
- Foster Children
- Guardianship
- Juvenile Justice
- Protective Services

Health

- Health Care Delivery
- Health Disparities
- Health Service Needs
- Quality of Care
- Uninsured (Health Insurance)

Mental Health Services

- Counseling
- Family Therapy
- Self Help Techniques
- Social Group Work
- Support Groups

Social Issues

- Adolescent Pregnancy
- Civil Rights
- Drug Abuse
- Food Insecurity
- Homeless
- Incarceration
- Poverty
- Social Equality
- Social Integration
- Unemployment

Social Services

- Case Management
- Community Services
- Elder Care
- Health Care Services
- Housing
- Integrated Services
- Outreach Programs
- Shelters
- Social Casework
- Social Programs
- Welfare Services (Government)

Social Workers

- Counselors
- Health Personnel
- Mental Health Personnel
- Psychiatric Social Workers
- School Counselors
- Vocational Counselors

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