

Special Issue

Parental and Infant Mental Health in the NICU Settings and Post-Discharge

Message from the Guest Editors

About 10% of live births annually result in an admission to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Admission to the NICU is a psychologically and physically distressing event for infants and parents, increasing their vulnerability to a multitude of adverse outcomes. NICU parents suffer from higher rates of acute and chronic mental health issues. Similarly, NICU infants grow up to have higher rates of psychological, cognitive, and developmental problems. In turn, NICU parents and infants, at least in the short term, might struggle to establish an optimal bond. Research exploring the vulnerability and resilience factors in NICU parent and infant mental health is of critical importance. Moreover, finding the best ways to support and optimize NICU parent and infant mental health is pivotal. We are pleased to invite you to contribute to this Special Issue on Parental and Infant Mental Health in the NICU to bring awareness to your research in this area and to foster further improvements in identification, assessment, and treatment options for mental health problems faced by this vulnerable group of parents and infants.

Guest Editors

Dr. Soudabeh Givrad

Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences—Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and Child Development, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305, USA

Prof. Dr. Richard J. Shaw

Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences—Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and Child Development, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305, USA

Deadline for manuscript submissions

26 May 2026



Behavioral Sciences

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.5
CiteScore 3.1
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/234785

Behavioral Sciences
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
behavsci@mdpi.com

[mdpi.com/journal/
behavsci](https://mdpi.com/journal/behavsci)





Behavioral Sciences

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.5
CiteScore 3.1
Indexed in PubMed



[mdpi.com/journal/
behavsci](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/behavsci)



About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

With warm greetings, it is a pleasure to invite you to contribute a research article or comprehensive review for consideration and publication in *Behavioral Sciences*. *Behavioral Sciences* is an international, scientific, open access journal providing an advanced forum for discussions and research regarding the intersection between psychiatry, neuroscience, psychology, cognitive and behavioral sciences, and behavioral biology. More information are available at: <https://www.mdpi.com/journal/behavsci>. We would be pleased to welcome you as one of our authors and have the opportunity to consider your work for publication.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Jerrell Cassady

Department of Educational Psychology, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306, USA

Author Benefits

High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, SSCI (Web of Science), PubMed, PMC, PsycInfo, and other databases.

Journal Rank:

JCR - Q2 (Psychology, Multidisciplinary) / CiteScore - Q2 (Development)

Rapid Publication:

manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 29.6 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 3.4 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the first half of 2025).