

Special Issue

Decision-Making in Child Abuse and Neglect: Insights from Professionals' Perspectives

Message from the Guest Editors

Decision-making in child abuse and neglect cases requires professionals including social workers, healthcare providers, educators, and law enforcement to navigate uncertainty, cultural contexts, and the delicate balance between protecting children and preserving families. This Special Issue will explore how child welfare practitioners identify, assess, and respond to suspected maltreatment, with attention to the interplay between risk factors and protective factors. We seek contributions that investigate decision-making models in child welfare in different cultural and populations. The focus will also include evidence-based interventions, cross-sector collaboration, and the role of training and supervision in strengthening decision quality. A central aim is to advance strategies that not only ensure safety but also promote the overall well-being and healthy development of children.

Submissions using qualitative, quantitative, mixed-methods, or systematic/scoping reviews are welcome, offering diverse, research-informed perspectives that guide ethical, timely, and effective action.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Social Sciences is an international open access peer-reviewed journal publishing the latest research across all disciplines of the social sciences including anthropology, criminology, economics, education, geography, history, law, linguistics, political science, psychology, social policy, social work, sociology and related areas. The journal is especially interested in interdisciplinary research, and aims to facilitate the interaction and communication between different social scientific disciplines. The journal welcomes conventional length articles as well as shorter Research Notes or short articles, as long as they meet the journal's standards of quality and originality.

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