Social Work Resources in PsycINFO

**Topics in PsycINFO of Relevance to Social Work**

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.
Selected Search Terms

The search terms provided here are just a few excerpts from the many relevant terms in PsycINFO’s thesaurus. 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 PsycINFO Quick Reference Guide you may also have received at the same time as this handout.

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

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

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

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

Social Issues
- Adolescent Pregnancy
- Civil Rights
- Drug Abuse
- Homeless
- Human Rights
- Incarceration
- Legal Processes
- Poverty
- Social Equality
- Social Integration
- Unemployment

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