

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## Special Issue of *Social Work Research*: Social Work with Men and Fathers

*Guest Editors:* Kevin Shafer, PhD, and Jennifer Bellamy, PhD, MSSW

Men occupy a privileged position in society, compared with women and children; yet, men and fathers face numerous challenges that affect their worth, well-being, and dignity—disproportionately high rates of suicide; early mortality and morbidity; and significant mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, and posttraumatic stress disorder. To compound the problem, men are not optimally engaged in many areas of social work practice, including mental health, child welfare, and early childhood interventions. Social workers, the majority of whom are women, have described challenges in working with men, including uncertainty about or even resistance to working with men. Gender roles and attitudes have rapidly evolved in the United States. For example, men are increasingly taking on direct caregiving responsibilities in their families and fathers are no longer defined primarily by their breadwinning role. However, social services have not evolved as rapidly, and men evidence low rates of participation in key parenting interventions such as home visiting and parent training. In this special issue we hope to increase social work's attention to the unique services needs of men, to the benefit of their well-being and that of their families and communities.

Although social workers often work with men in a variety of settings, there is little available evidence to guide practice with them. Existing studies primarily highlight the challenges related to engaging men in social services but provide scant guidance as to how to improve rates of participation, engagement, and outcomes. The evidence on effective social work practice with certain subgroups of men, including racial and ethnic minority men, young and unmarried fathers, and incarcerated men is particularly limited. Thus, the goal of this special issue is to provide an empirical foundation to researchers and practitioners on social work with men, with a particular focus on these and other underrepresented groups of men. We are interested in manuscripts that provide empirical evidence on mental, physical, and public health issues surrounding men; barriers to social work practice with men; clinical insights into social work practice with men; and strategies and interventions designed to improve men's engagement in and benefit from services. We welcome contributions that focus on special populations of men, including servicemen and veterans, the incarcerated, racial and ethnic minority groups, fathers, and sexual minorities, among others. We are also interested in manuscripts that consider how working with men can help improve the well-being of men's families and communities.

Consistent with the goals of *Social Work Research*, manuscripts should be methodologically sound, empirically based, and contribute to improved evidence-based and evidence-informed practice with men.

The deadline for manuscript submission is **December 31, 2015**. The journal encourages submission of full-length articles and Research Notes for this special issue. Full-length articles should be no longer than 28 double-spaced pages in length. Research Notes should be no longer than 12 double-spaced pages. To prepare your manuscript in proper format, view *Writing for NASW Press: Information for Authors* on our Web site at <http://www.naswpress.org>. Please submit manuscripts as Word documents through the online submission portal at <http://swr.msubmit.net>. Please indicate that your submission is intended for the special issue: Social Work with Men and Fathers.