

Book Review

Landale, N. S., McHale, S. M., & Booth A. (Eds.). (2013). *Families and child health*. New York: Springer.

Reviewed by Herbert I. Burson, Ph.D., LGSW,
MSW Program Director and Assistant Professor of Social Work, Troy University

Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics, Volume 11, Number 1 (2014)
Copyright 2014, Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB)

This text may be freely shared among individuals, but it may not be republished in any medium without express written consent from the authors and advance notification of ASWB

This work is one in a four-volume series from the National Symposium on Family Issues, held annually at Penn State University. Sponsored by the University's Colleges of Liberal Arts and Health and Human Development, and the University's Population Institute, the symposium is an interdisciplinary conference bringing together scholars in the field of family issues who present and critically analyze research related to family well-being.

The editors, all faculty from Pennsylvania State University, include Nancy Landale, Ph.D., liberal arts research professor of sociology and demography; Susan McHale, Ph.D., director of the Social Science Research Institute and the Children, Youth, and Family Consortium and professor of human development; and Alan Booth, Ph.D., distinguished professor of sociology, demography, and human development and family studies.

Each of the editors brings extensive and diverse experience to bear on the topic. Dr. Landale's research includes works on immigration and its impact on families, while Dr. McHale has focused on the relationship between family dynamics and youth development. Dr. Booth, co-organizer of the annual symposium since 1993, has published more than 100 articles and 4 books and has edited 16 works on family issues.

Families and Child Health contains 16 chapters covering the categories of 1) Bio-Social Influences on Early Childhood Health; 2) Role of Family Dynamics in Children's Health; 3) Link to the Social Environment Through Families; and 4) Impact of Social Policies and Programs on Children's Health. As is evident from the category headings, this volume is consistent with a social work approach to the issues covered, as it follows the biopsychosocial assessment model, including analysis of the impact of social policies on the well-being of children and families.

It also contains chapters devoted to the needs of diverse populations and the impacts of policy on populations at risk, addressing issues of race, gender and social class. The emphasis on health disparities is particularly appropriate for social work. Of special interest in this work, and a significant contribution to the literature, is its devotion to a section on workplace issues and the effects of workplace policies on the health and well-being of children and families.

This work would be useful in courses on health disparities, the effects of social policies and their impacts on child health, and on direct practice with children and families. Both academics and practitioners would find its content useful in evaluating and implementing effective interventions for the problem of child health

Book review: *Families and child health*

across populations and cultures. It is a valuable work, particularly for graduate level education.

While *Families and Child Health* does not devote specific chapters or sections to social work values and ethics, the issues covered in the

volume address ethical issues with which social workers must grapple in day to day practice. It also presents challenging questions and much needed suggestions for solutions to the problems experienced by children and families and their impacts on child health.