Perceived Welfare Caseworker Support and Psychological Distress among Low-Income Urban Women with Children

Abstract

Although some research suggests that the relationship between child protective services workers and their clients may influence client outcomes, little is known about the function of the relationship between welfare or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families caseworkers and their clients. Building on previous research, we use 1999 survey data from the Welfare, Children, and Families Project, a probability sample of 853 low-income women with children living in Boston, Chicago, and San Antonio, to examine the association between perceived welfare caseworker support and psychological distress. Our results reveal that women who perceive their welfare caseworker to be interested, caring, and helpful also tend to exhibit lower levels of psychological distress.

The full article will be available at sw.oxfordjournals.org, Social Work, Forthcoming.