

Researching Policies

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what is a policy?

In general, policy is defined as "a course of action adopted and pursued by a government, ruler, political party, etc." (Dictionary.com)

In regards to social welfare, policies are laws that are proposed or passed that will impact the delivery of services or care to our clients. Policies could mandate the delivery of social services to certain populations, provide funding for various types of programs, or expand the rights for particular client groups.

Websites with Information Related to Policy

Drug Policy Alliance
<http://www.drugpolicy.org/>

Social Work Policy Institute
<http://www.socialworkpolicy.org/research>

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): Programs & Campaigns
<http://www.samhsa.gov/programs-campaigns>

Urban Institute Policy Centers
<http://www.urban.org/>

Examples of Policy Journals Available through Benner Library

Analyses of Social Issues & Public Policy

Global Issues in Context

Journal of Poverty and Social Justice: Research, Policy, Practice

Journal of Social Research & Policy



Search Terms for Policies

Try combining terms describing your topic with policy terms when searching the any library database.

Examples of policy terms:

"legislation"
"social welfare"
"social policy"
"public policy"

Examples of search term combinations:

"Public policy" AND "substance abuse"
"Legislation" AND "Gang activity"

Try these searches in Advanced Search in Summon