Special Issue:
Health, Economics, and Family Role

Guest Editor:
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This special issue of the Journal of Family and Economic Issues invites original empirical or theoretical research papers relevant to the role of individuals and families in improving the health of nations. While much of the policy debate on health care reform focuses on providers and payers, in large part individual and national health depends on learning health skills and in living healthier lifestyles.

Understanding the role of the family in acquiring and teaching health skills is critical to understanding the health of nations. This may be as important as the responsibility of government regulators and healthcare professionals in containing healthcare costs, extending life expectancy, and increasing quality of life.

The ideas of scholars and health policy makers are powerful, but not commonly understood, especially in view of the increasing size and complexity of the public and private roles in the health care of families. With the growing role of the public sector in regulating, financing, and delivering healthcare, individual accountability may be seriously eroded, thus increasing health costs and preventing intended health outcomes. This special issue encourages fresh perspectives on ongoing challenges and opportunities to the families, providers, insurers, and regulators, all of whom have varied incentives and aspirations. This provides fertile ground for scholars to analyze underlying health issues and to provide ideas that would substantially influence individuals’ and families’ perceptions of their role in health care.

Suggested areas of research for this special JFEI issue include, but are not limited to:

- Economics of intrafamily resource allocation in health skills
- Family investments in health skills and the cost of healthcare
- Socioeconomic status of healthy families: Who are they, where are they, and why are they healthy?
- What should a family know about health and health economics?
- Economics of being a good patient: How should patients most efficiently collaborate with their family doctors?
- Economic perspective on happiness and health: Are healthy families happier?
- Family Economics and the consequences of parental decision making on the children's health
- Economic impacts of maternal death
- Economics of public and private role in family health
- Role of policies and incentives in family investments in prevention and promoting health
• Economic pathways to minimize substance abuse and to reduce family members' use of health care services
• Family health and economic development at community and/or national level
• Economic literacy in understanding family health disparities
• Health, income disparities, and immigrant families
• Economics of ageing and family health
• What should poor families pay for their health care and what should be their obligations for minimizing use of the healthcare system?
• Spatial distribution of families and family health disparities: Health Status, Health expenditures, and Health finance
• A survey of research data in health and family economic issues

Submission Guidelines

Please follow the 6th Edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association to prepare your manuscript. The manuscript should not be more than 35 pages in length including text, tables, figures, and references. All papers must be submitted on or before March 10, 2010, via the journal’s online submission system at http://www.editorialmanager.com/jeei. Please indicate that the paper is to be considered as a contribution to the special issue Health, Economics, and Family Role. All papers will be peer-reviewed.

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