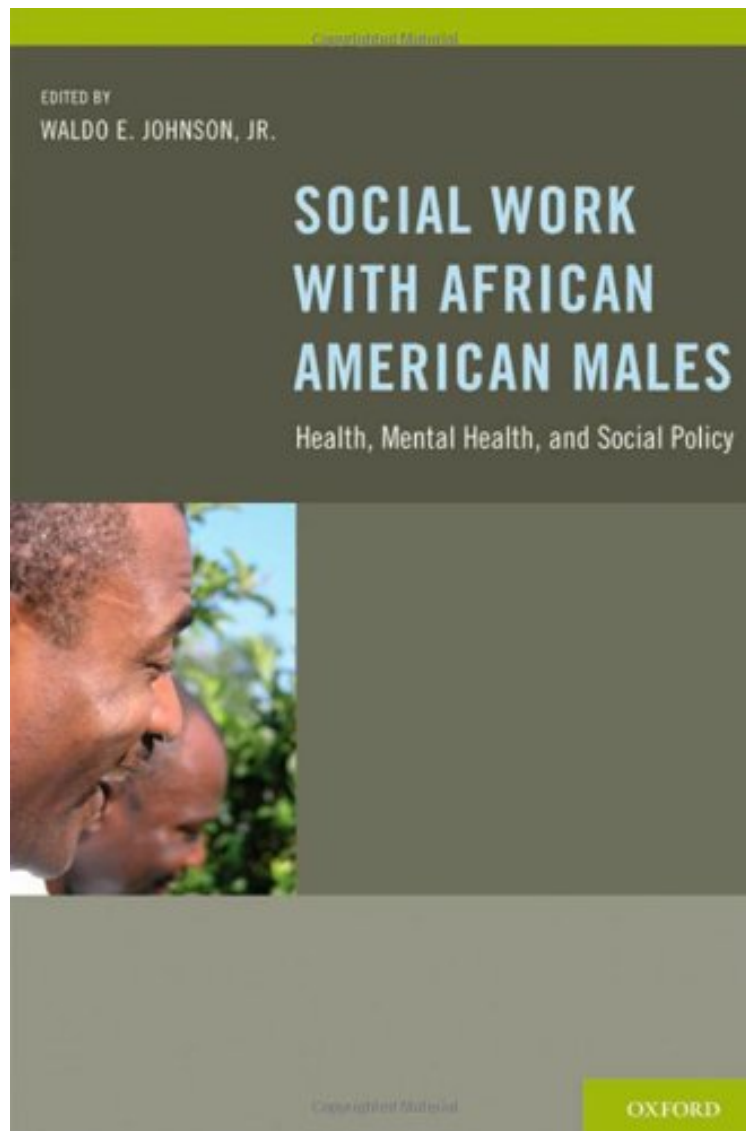


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## Social Work With African American Males: Health, Mental Health, and Social Policy

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**From Oxford University Press : Social Work With African American Males: Health, Mental Health, and Social Policy** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Social Work With African American Males: Health, Mental Health, and Social Policy:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Book Review By Dr. Telvis Rich Dr. Johnson's book shows the lived experiences of African American men through the lens of a diverse group of young and middle aged men. The

opportunity to explore how the family unit, the environment and the social service entities are clearly displayed. Additionally, the book gives supportive and relevant data on the mental health challenges, education disparities and rationale of the absence father. Last, the strengths-based perspective for addressing the host of social policy issues is present throughout the text. This is a must read for new and seasoned social work and human service professionals and faculty. Dr. Telvis Rich<sup>2</sup> of 2 people found the following review helpful. simply amazing By Jeffery Mingo I loved the diverse chapters here. This covers subjects like schooling, incarceration, access to medical care, child support, etc. Also, Black males are not treated as a monolithic group. The book speaks of middle-class men, poor men, gay men, straight fathers, uncles, etc. (I guess there's no talk on religious diversity; but it's not like the contributors ever write as if all Black males practice the same religion, or a practice any religion at all.) I do wonder if "social work" in the title is a misnomer. The chapters are not full of "Black Guy Alpha walks into your office; how do you assist him as a social worker?" Instead, this has lots of facts and info that may add knowledge generally for social workers who deal with this demographic. I love the middle ground of complexity here. This is not easy-to-digest, bell hooks-esque personal narrative after personal narrative. However, this is not some Judith Butler, hardcore academic babble as well. These chapters are sophisticated, but not too hard to read. The chapters are relatively short in page length. This book has the potential to be a quick read for advanced readers. Here's a small point of bias. I'm a Chicagoan and I get the sense that the academics research in the Chicagoland area often. In a way, I do feel like Chicago is very representative of Black America, but maybe someone from a rural community or someone from the West Coast, etc. would disagree. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Critical Work By Customer This is a must read for any practitioner, policy maker, or scholar working with, advocating for, or studying African American males. In this book Dr. Johnson has pulled together a collection of original research that provides not only an in-depth analysis of the plight of African American males but also offers thought provoking analysis of the potential policy implications.

African American males have never fared as poorly as they do currently on a number of social indicators. They are less likely to complete high school than their white male and female or African American female peers, they are more likely to exhibit depressive symptoms, and they have fewer sanctioned coping strategies. Arguably, no other group in American society has been more maligned, regularly faced with tremendous odds that uniquely threaten their existence. When they do receive education, mental health, and physical health services, it is often in correctional settings. They are marginalized in public policies on secondary and higher education attainment, marriage and parental expectations, public welfare, health, housing, and community development. Yet they remain overlooked in health and social science research and are stereotyped in the popular media. Taking a step back from the traditionally myopic view of African American males as criminals and hustlers, this groundbreaking book provides a more nuanced and realistic portrait of their experiences in the world. Chapter authors, both established and emerging scholars of social problems relevant to African Americans, offer a comprehensive overview of the social and economic data on black males to date and the significant issues that affect them from adolescence to adulthood. Via in-depth qualitative interviews as well as comprehensive surveys and data sets, their physical, mental, and spiritual health and emerging family roles are considered within both individual and communal contexts. Chapters cover health issues such as HIV and depression; fatherhood and family roles; suicide; violence; academic achievement; and incarceration. With original research and a special eye toward enhancing social work and social welfare intervention practice with this often overlooked subpopulation of American society, this volume will be of great interest to researchers interested in African American issues, students, practitioners, and policy makers.

"This unique volume, through careful original research, explores how African American males respond to the challenges and barriers they face in their day-to-day struggles to survive. The chapters cover a range of issues in the experiences of these men, including their developmental transitions, their physical and mental health, their family roles, and the impact of incarceration on their own lives and the lives of their families. The chapter authors not only provide compelling evidence on the contemporary status of African American males, they also present thoughtful reflections on the policy implications of their research's findings." --William Julius Wilson, PhD, Lewis P. and Linda L. Geyser University Professor, Harvard University "A masterful blend of qualitative and quantitative materials, this book represents an important contribution to the growing body of research on black male poverty. Johnson's collection constitutes some of the most provocative new work on the troubling issues facing poor young black men to date...a must read for anyone interested in this area." --Elijah Anderson, PhD, William K. Lanman, Jr. Professor of Sociology, Yale University "Dr. Waldo Johnson, a leader in social work research, has compiled a powerful volume of thoughtful reviews and empirical research on the status of men of color. His book lays out the complex challenges they face while charting a hopeful path towards practice and policy solutions. This work is essential for anyone whose work touches the lives of men of color." --John A. Rich, MD, MPH, Professor and Chair, Health Management and Policy, Drexel University School of Public Health "This volume brings together in one place an unprecedented collection of resources for practitioners dealing with the distinctive needs of one of the poorest groups in American society, African American males. Chapters filled with quantitative and qualitative data lay out the issues in cogent and arresting detail. Other

chapters then provide a much-needed overview and discussion of existing programs and contemporary policy issues." --Mercer L. Sullivan, PhD, Associate Professor, Rutgers School of Criminal Justice "This strengths-based book does not sugarcoat the issues that society faces, yet it offers hope. Answers are in the chapters. Every social worker should own a copy." -- Social Service About the AuthorWaldo E. Johnson, Jr., PhD, is an Associate Professor in the School of Social Service Administration and Faculty Affiliate of the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture at the University of Chicago.