

Contents

| | |
|--|------|
| Acknowledgments | viii |
| Preface | ix |
| PART I: Caring for America's Children | 1 |
| 1. The Rights of Children | 3 |
| Legal and Social Rights of Children | 5 |
| Balancing the Rights of Parents, Children, and the State | 9 |
| The <i>Parens Patriae</i> Power of the State | 15 |
| The Needs of Children | 17 |
| Summary | 19 |
| 2. The Health of America's Children | 21 |
| Health Status of Children | 22 |
| Health Issues Facing Today's Adolescents | 25 |
| Health Care Services | 29 |
| Mental Health Status of Children | 32 |
| Policy Issues Related to Health Care for Children | 35 |
| Summary | 36 |
| 3. Children and the Public Schools | 38 |
| Financing Education | 38 |
| Children at Risk for Educational Failure | 40 |
| Addressing the Inequities | 47 |
| Summary | 51 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| PART II: The Residual Nature of Child Welfare | 53 |
| 4. The Juvenilization of Poverty | 55 |
| The Context of Poverty | 56 |
| Economic Conditions of Children | 58 |
| The Economic Decline of Families | 60 |
| The Consequences of Poverty | 62 |
| The Culture of Poverty and the Underclass | 65 |
| Social Services and Policies for Poor Children and Families | 66 |
| Summary | 72 |
| 5. Child Abuse and Neglect | 73 |
| History of Child Abuse and Neglect | 73 |
| Definitions of Maltreatment | 75 |
| Incidence of Child Maltreatment | 77 |
| The Role of Child Welfare Workers | 79 |
| Indicators of Abuse and Neglect | 82 |
| Contributing Factors | 84 |
| Consequences of Maltreatment | 85 |
| Policies and Programs | 87 |
| Summary | 90 |
| 6. When the State Intervenes: | |
| Foster Care, Adoption, and Permanency Planning | 91 |
| Foster Care | 91 |
| The Neglected Foster Child | 95 |
| Permanency Planning | 99 |
| Summary | 104 |
| PART III: New Threats to Children | 105 |
| 7. HIV and Chemical Exposure | 107 |
| Defining Chemical Use | 108 |
| Child Welfare Agencies and the Chemically Exposed Infant | 113 |
| HIV Infection and Children | 116 |
| Summary | 120 |
| 8. Homeless Youth | 122 |
| Definition of Homeless Youth | 123 |
| Demographics and Characteristics of Homeless Youth | 124 |
| Unique Concerns of Homeless Youth | 127 |
| The Link Between Homelessness and Poverty | 132 |
| Societal Response to Homelessness | 134 |
| Summary | 135 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| 9. Violence and Children | 137 |
| Definition of Violence | 138 |
| Incidence | 138 |
| Violence and the Media | 140 |
| Community and Family Violence | 141 |
| Missing Children | 146 |
| Violence and Self-Esteem | 147 |
| Summary | 148 |
| PART IV: Linking Research and Practice | 149 |
| 10. Assessing Infants and Children: A Developmental Perspective | 151 |
| Infants as Active Learners | 152 |
| Children in Difficult Situations | 154 |
| Surviving Distressed Environments | 158 |
| Implications for Interventions | 159 |
| Summary | 164 |
| 11. A Research Agenda for the Future | 165 |
| Knowledge Gaps | 165 |
| New Arenas for Research | 172 |
| Summary | 176 |
| 12. Preventive Policies and Programs in Child Welfare | 178 |
| The Value of Preventive Social Welfare Policies | 179 |
| The Consequences of Current Policy | 180 |
| The Costs of Neglect | 181 |
| The State of Current Services for Children and Families | 183 |
| Early Intervention | 185 |
| The Role of Human Service Professionals | 186 |
| Policies Sensitive to Children and Families in Need | 188 |
| Summary | 191 |
| References | 192 |
| Author Index | 209 |
| Subject Index | 216 |
| About the Authors | 223 |