Bridget Freisthler

Professor | College of Social Work at The Ohio State University

Columbus, OH, US

Expert in health and social problems based on neighborhood ecologies.

Biography

Dr. Freisthler's work focuses on 1) understanding how health and social problems vary across geographic areas, such as neighborhoods, 2) identifying those areas in a community which are at risk for developing or already experiencing high levels of harms based on a growing understanding of neighborhood ecologies, and 3) examining how the location of services may further help or hinder the development of problems in neighborhood areas. She is particularly interested in how the substance use environment (e.g., alcohol outlet and medical marijuana dispensaries) is related to a variety of harms, including crime and child maltreatment.

She currently directs studies examining how the regulatory environment for medical marijuana is related to problems such as crime, marijuana use, and abuse/dependence, how drinking locations and contexts, particularly related to the substance use environment, affects substance use and parenting behaviors, such as child maltreatment, and how web-based technology to create a more streamlined process for determining which agencies have openings available to serve clients and matching client referrals with service providers in order to reduce length of stay for children in foster care and increase reunification rates.

She leads the Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) Social Ecological Models Consortium. She also studies how service availability and accessibility may reduce these harms in local areas.

Her work is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, the John Randolph and Dora Haynes Foundation, and private donors.

Industry Expertise

Education/Learning

Areas of Expertise

Child Abuse and Neglect, Drug and alcohol use (particularly marijuana, opiates, and alcohol), Drug distribution systems, GIS, Spatial Analysis, Service availability

Affiliations

Research Society on Alcoholism, American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, Society for Social Work and Research, Society for Prevention Research

Education

University of California, Berkeley
Ph.D.

University of Chicago
AM

Purdue University
B.A.

Purdue University
B.S.

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