

The manuscript titled “*Intergenerational Epigenetic Impacts of Substance Abuse in Latino Families: A Review of Substance-Specific and Transgenerational Outcomes*” presents a highly interdisciplinary synthesis of research on the biological and sociocultural dimensions of substance abuse. Its integration of epigenetics with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), social determinants of health, and cultural stressors affecting Latino communities is both innovative and relevant to contemporary social work and welfare policy discourse.

While the core of the manuscript draws from neuroscience and molecular biology, it skillfully links these biological processes to systemic inequities, behavioral health disparities, and the need for culturally tailored prevention strategies. These linkages are critical for informing social work practice, family systems interventions, trauma-informed care, and public health policy development.

Given the journal’s mission to advance understanding of policy implications for vulnerable populations and to promote interdisciplinary approaches to social problems, this manuscript is highly suitable for publication in the *Journal of Social Work and Welfare Policy*. It offers a scientifically grounded and socially conscious perspective that can contribute to policy reform, advocacy, and evidence-informed practice in social work settings.

To further enhance the manuscript’s relevance to the field of social work and welfare policy, the authors are encouraged to expand on the **practice and policy implications** of their findings. Specifically:

1. Policy Translation:

While the manuscript discusses systemic inequities affecting Latino families, it would benefit from more explicit connections to current social welfare policies, such as child welfare, mental health service delivery, Medicaid access, or immigration-related health policy. A brief section could highlight how emerging knowledge of epigenetic transmission might influence policy debates around early childhood intervention, trauma-informed care, or substance use treatment funding.

2. Practice Applications:

Consider including examples of how social workers can apply these findings in real-world settings—such as family-centered interventions,

culturally grounded ACEs screening tools, or intergenerational trauma models in Latino communities. This would bridge the molecular findings with social work's ecological and strengths-based approaches.

3. Workforce and Training:

A brief note on the importance of training the social work workforce to understand and integrate basic epigenetic principles into biopsychosocial assessments, especially for practitioners working in community-based or clinical addiction services, would align well with the journal's applied focus.

By adding a paragraph or two in the conclusion or discussion that speaks directly to **social** policy, program design, and professional practice, the manuscript will have even greater utility for the journal's readership and for professionals shaping or implementing social services for vulnerable populations.