Though a large majority of child welfare–involved families in the United States are low-income, child welfare services typically receive little attention in major social policy debates. This omission is striking given not only the high costs of child maltreatment to individuals, families, and society, but also evidence suggesting a causal link between income and cases of child abuse and neglect.

This volume of The ANNALS aims to increase awareness of child welfare services in the United States and promote understanding of the broad impacts of related policies. Written by leading child maltreatment and child welfare policy scholars, its articles present concrete recommendations for better preventing, identifying, and addressing child maltreatment in the contexts of both child welfare services and the greater social policy landscape.

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