

## Closing the Front Door of Child Protection: Rethinking Mandated Reporting

**Authors :** Miriam Itzkowitz, Katie Olson

**Abstract :** Through an interdisciplinary and trauma-responsive lens, this article reviews the legal and social history of mandated reporting laws and family separation, examines the ethical conundrum of mandated reporting as it relates to evidence-based practice, and discusses alternatives to mandated reporting as a primary prevention strategy. Using existing and emerging data, the authors argue that mandated reporting as a universal strategy contributes to racial disproportionality in the child welfare system and that anti-racist practices should begin with an examination of our reliance on mandated reporting.

**Keywords :** child welfare, education, mandated reporting, racial disproportionality, trauma

**Conference Title :** ICEP 2022 : International Conference on Education and Poverty

**Conference Location :** Miami, United States

**Conference Dates :** March 11-12, 2022