

Neighborhoods, Communities & Youth

Contents



3 Neighborhood Residence and Youth Development: Empirical Findings and Theoretical Models

By Tama Leventhal, Ph.D., and Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, Ph.D.

Does the neighborhood or community where a youth lives make a difference for his or her well-being? This article summarizes the latest research findings on neighborhood influences on a broad range of youth outcomes as well as theoretical developments in the field.



7 Neighborhoods and Youth: How Neighborhood Demographics and Social Processes Affect Youth Outcomes

By Ray Swisher, Ph.D.

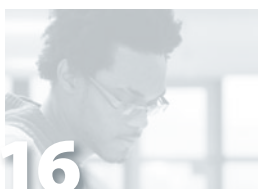
Using a life course and ecological perspective as an organizing framework, this article looks at how the characteristics of neighborhoods, families, and children interact to shape development over time. Special attention is paid to social relationships both within and between neighborhoods.



12 Places to Be and to Belong: Youth Perceptions of Life in Community

By Janis Whitlock, Ph.D., and Jane Powers, Ph.D.

This article explores how adolescent connectedness to community is formed. Using youth quotes, it shows how youth desire community places to simply be present and at the same time how youth long to belong in their community. It ends with specific suggestions for policy and practice.



16 Youth-Adult Partnership: Impacting Individuals and Communities

By Shepherd Zeldin, Ph.D., and Julie Petrokubi, M.S.

When organizations adopt youth-adult partnership (Y-AP) as a priority, a culture of partnership can be created, which in turn, can directly impact participating youth, staff, community leaders, and public institutions. This article explores the full range of outcomes that might emerge when organizations adopt Y-AP as a core organizational approach and outlines a framework for explaining how organizations promote these positive outcomes.



21 Creating Community Change to Improve Youth Development: The Communities That Care System

By Blair Brooke-Weiss, M.S.P.H., Kevin P. Haggerty, M.S.W., Abigail A. Fagan, Ph.D., J. David Hawkins, Ph.D., and Rick Cady, B.S.

This article highlights "Communities That Care," a prevention operating system that provides tools to guide community-based coalitions in using recent scientific advances to promote measurable change for their children and youth. It describes the Communities That Care system, its research foundation, and evidence of its effectiveness at the community level.

2 From the Editor's PC

11 Web Resources



From the Editor's PC

Dear Colleagues,

It matters where youth live. Whether looking at their immediate neighborhoods or larger communities, the environments in which adolescents live can have positive or negative effects. This issue of *The Prevention Researcher* explores the impact of neighborhoods and communities, focusing on how adults can make a difference.

Two articles set the foundation for this issue. The first, by Drs. Tama Leventhal and Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, summarizes the latest research findings and theoretical developments in the field. The second, by Dr. Ray Swisher, provides an organizing framework to explore how the characteristics of neighborhoods, families, and children interact to shape youth development over time. Special attention is paid to social relationships both within and between neighborhoods.

It is rare for researchers to ask youth how they feel about their community. Our third article, by Drs. Janis Whitlock and Jane Powers, uses the voices of youth to highlight youth perceptions of life in their community. This article discusses the importance of *unknown* adults—those adults, such as store clerks and police officers, who have brief encounters with youth.

It is possible for youth to help create change within their own communities. In our fourth article, Dr. Shepherd Zeldin and Ms. Julie Petrokubi explore the power of youth-adult partnerships, and how youth and adults working together can impact the community that surrounds them.

Finally, some communities need to put prevention programs in place to address their concerns. Our last article, by Ms. Blair Brooke-Weiss and colleagues, describes the Communities That Care system. Communities That Care is a prevention “operating system” which helps guide communities in selecting and implementing proven prevention programs.

Our goal for this issue was to go beyond merely demonstrating how neighborhoods and communities impact youth. It was our goal to show how adults within those environments can make a difference—whether through casual encounters with youth on the street, through partnering with youth in collective action, or through the creation of community-based coalitions to implement proven prevention programs.

All the best,

Steven Ungerleider, Ph.D.
Editor/Psychologist

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