

PREVENTION OF YOUTH HEALTH RISK BEHAVIORS: THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTEXT

INDIANA JOINT NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK CONFERENCE

4/8/14

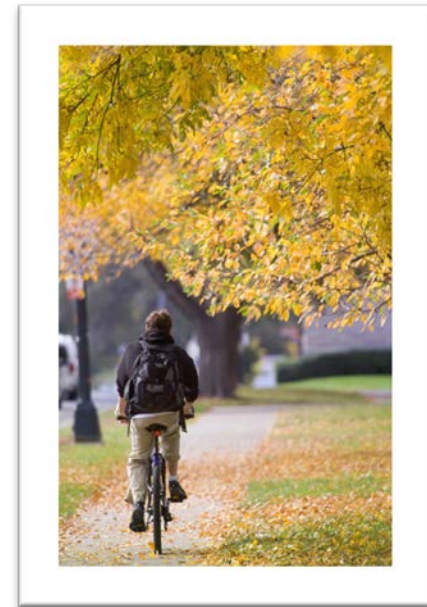
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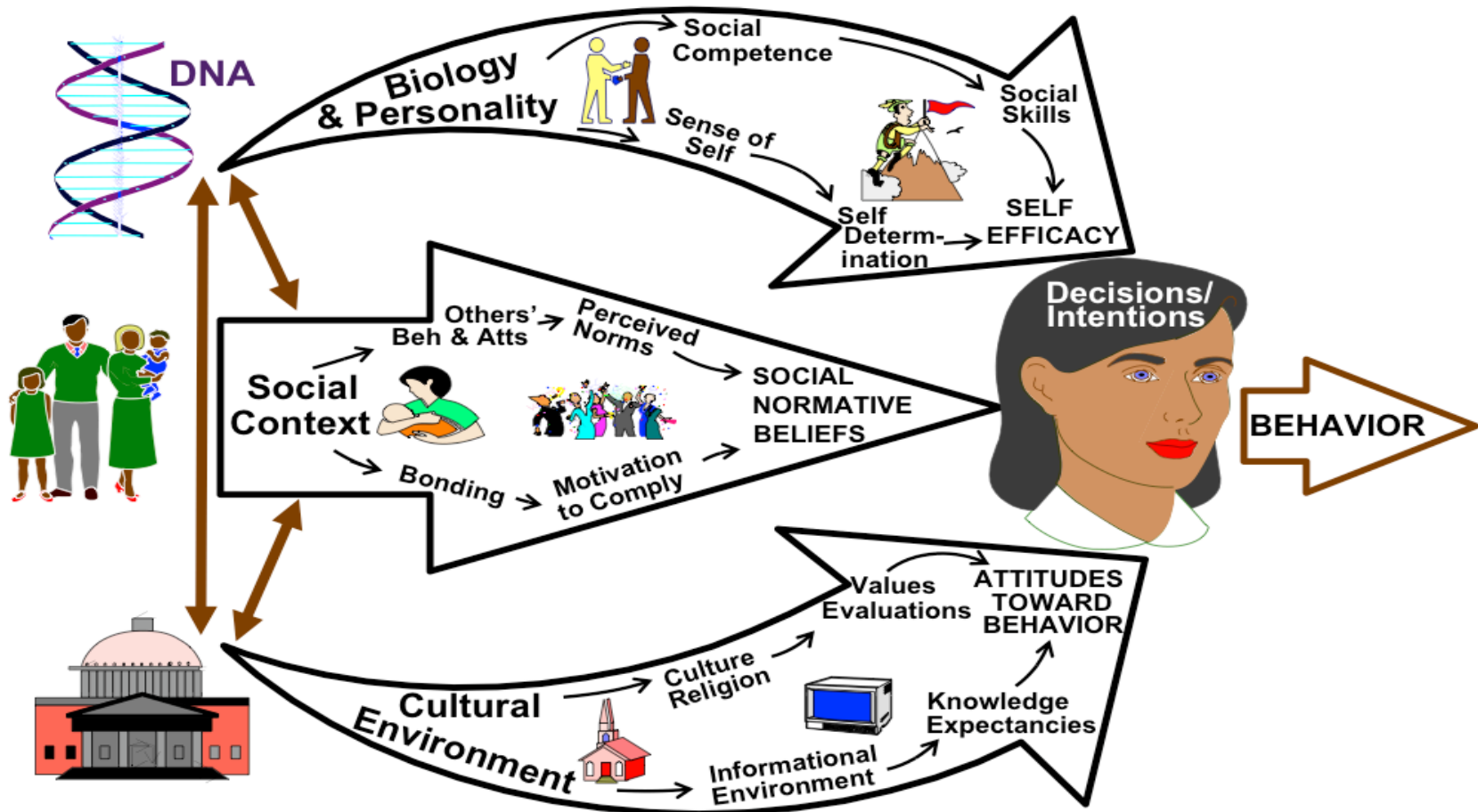
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OUTLINE

- Youth health risk behaviors
 - E.g., substance use, violence, obesogenic behaviors
- Positive youth development
 - E.g., social and emotional development, academic achievement
- Program evaluation
 - School-based interventions
 - Community-based interventions

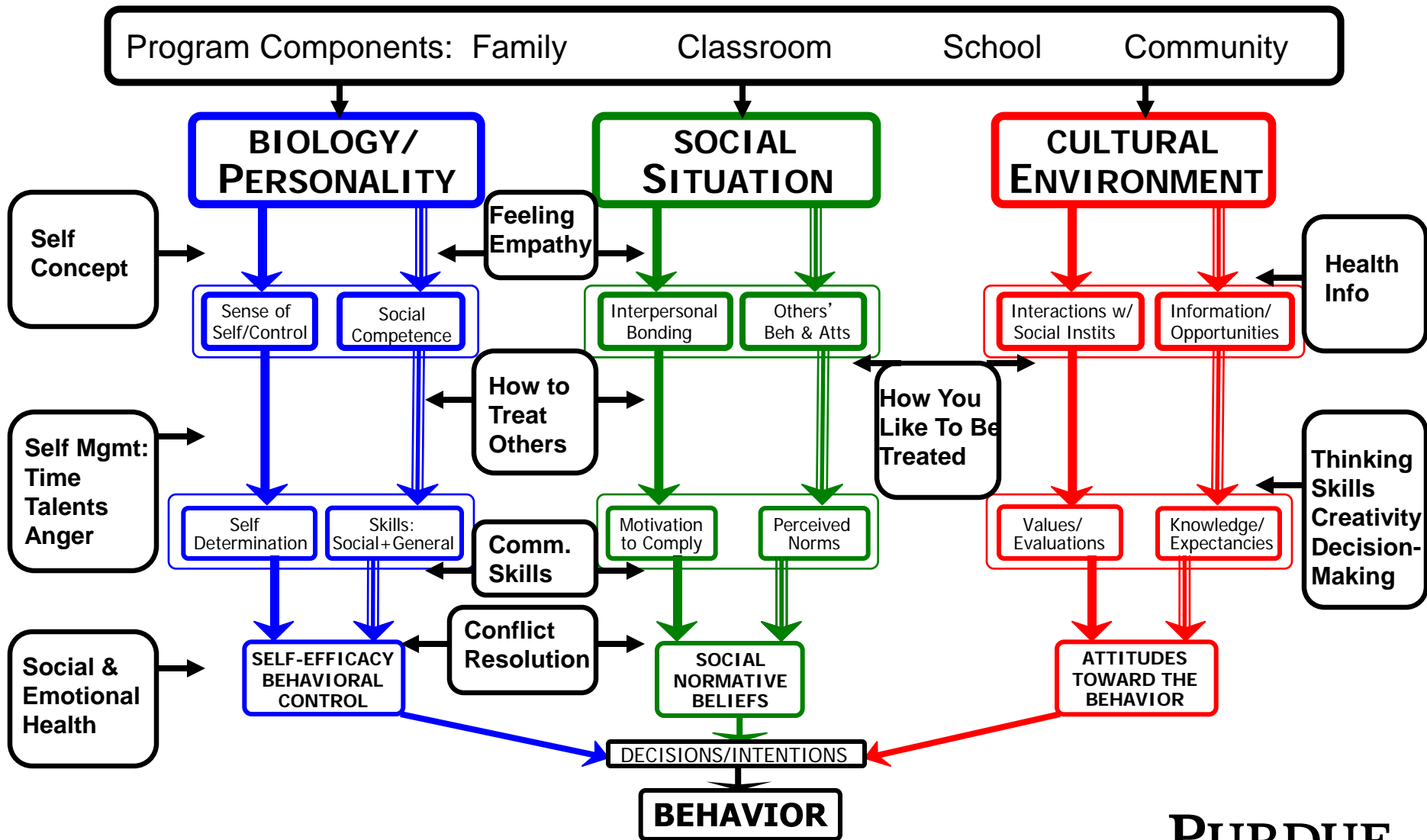


PERSONAL, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINANTS: THE THEORY OF TRIADIC INFLUENCE



Flay, Snyder, & Petraitis, *Emerging Theories in Health Promotion Practice and Research*, 2009

THE POSITIVE ACTION PROGRAM: AN APPLICATION OF THEORY



WHAT IS SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL AND CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT?

- Prosocial education
 - Social and emotional learning
 - Character education
 - Moral education
 - Positive youth development
 - Prosocial behavior
 - Service learning
 - Intending to promote student development
- Purdue Athletes Life Success Program (PALS)
- Positive Action



Snyder & Flay, Handbook of Prosocial Education, 2012

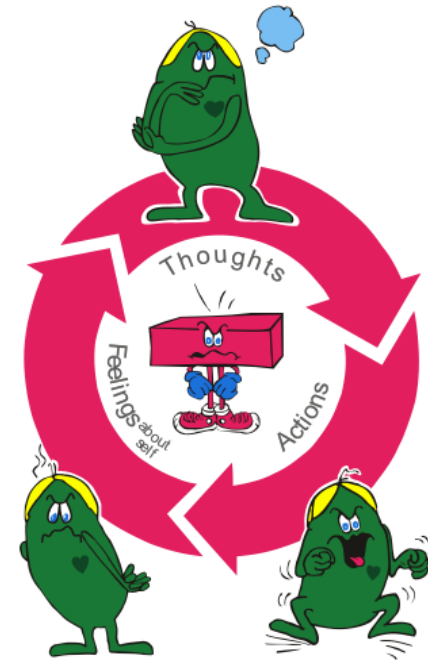
POSITIVE ACTION OVERVIEW

“You feel good about yourself when you think and do positive actions, and there is always a positive way to do everything.”

You feel good about yourself when you do positive actions.



You feel bad about yourself when you do negative actions.



POSITIVE ACTION OVERVIEW

- Sets of program materials
 - Classroom curriculum
 - School-wide
 - Family kit
 - Community



POSITIVE ACTION STUDIES

- Randomized trials (Hawaii and Chicago)
 - Substance use
 - Violent behaviors
 - Sexual activity
- What else is needed?

METHODS

- Hawaii trial background
 - 2002-03 to 2005-06
 - 20 elementary schools
 - Random assignment of schools
 - Schools matched based on School Report Card index score
- Program schools received
 - 4 years of the program
 - Teacher training

RESEARCH QUESTION

To what extent does the program impact school context as measured by archival school-level data on school quality collected by the school district?



DATA

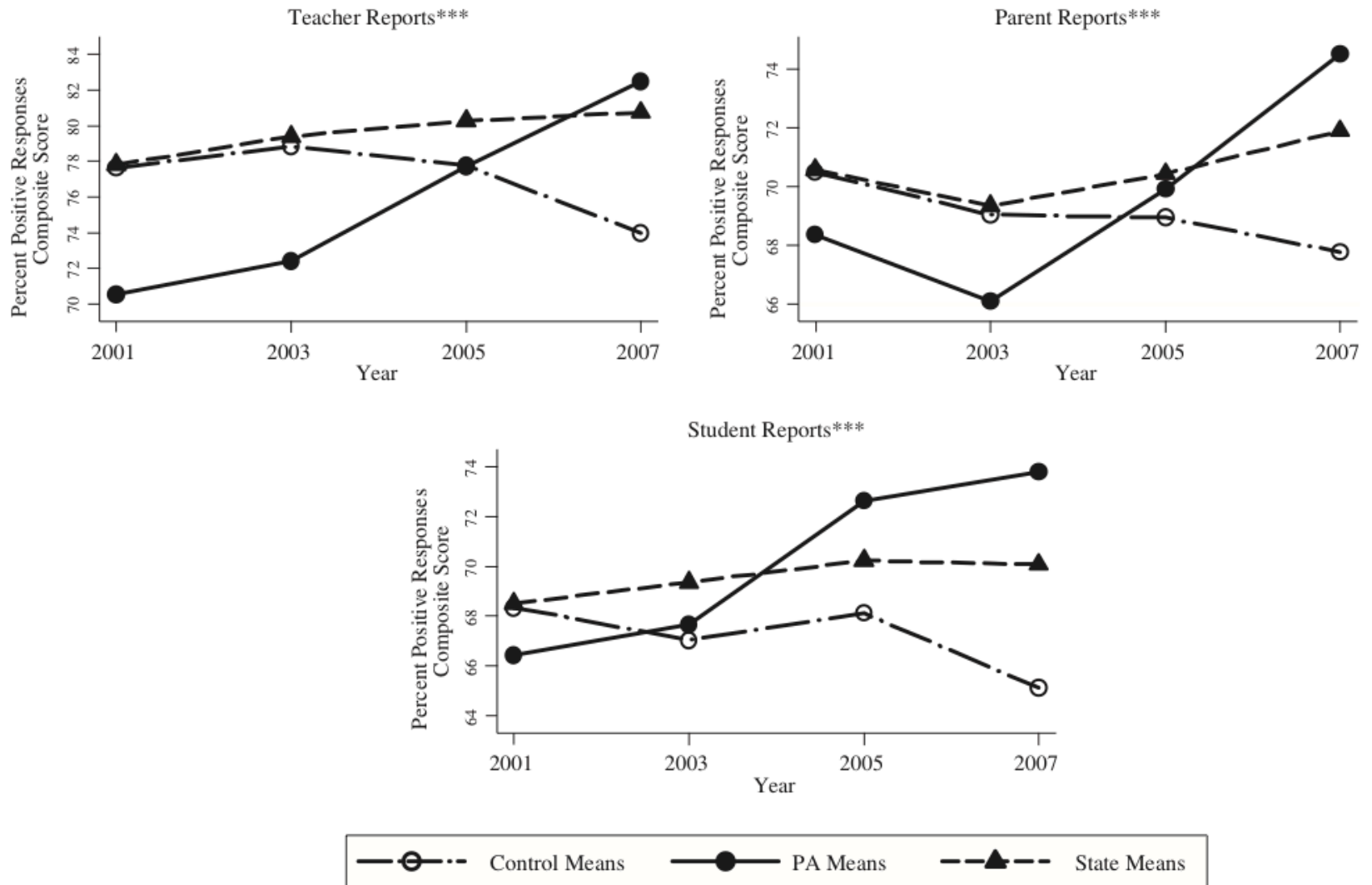
- Archival school-level data
 - Hawaii School Quality Survey
 - Teachers
 - Parents
 - Students



MEASURES

- School Quality Survey: Teacher, parent, and student data
- Indicator (% positive response)
 - Safety and well-being
 - Involvement
 - Satisfaction
 - Quality student support
 - Focused and sustained action
 - Responsiveness of the system
 - Standards-based learning
 - Professionalism and capacity of the system
 - Coordinated team work
- Composite Scores

Figure 1. School-Level Means for Teacher, Parent, and Student School-Quality Composite Scores Hawai'i Randomized Trial Occurred 2002-2003 to 2005-2006.



Random-intercept growth curve models: *p < .05; **p < .01; ***p < .001; all 2-tailed tests of significance

RESEARCH QUESTION

Do changes in positive behavior (i.e., positive academic behavior) mediate the effects of the *Positive Action* intervention on substance use, violent behaviors, and sexual activity?



MEASURES: MEDIATOR

- Academic Behavior
 - Student self-reports and teacher reports of student behavior:
 - Work hard in school
 - Set goals
 - Manage time wisely
 - Try to be their best
 - Solve problems well

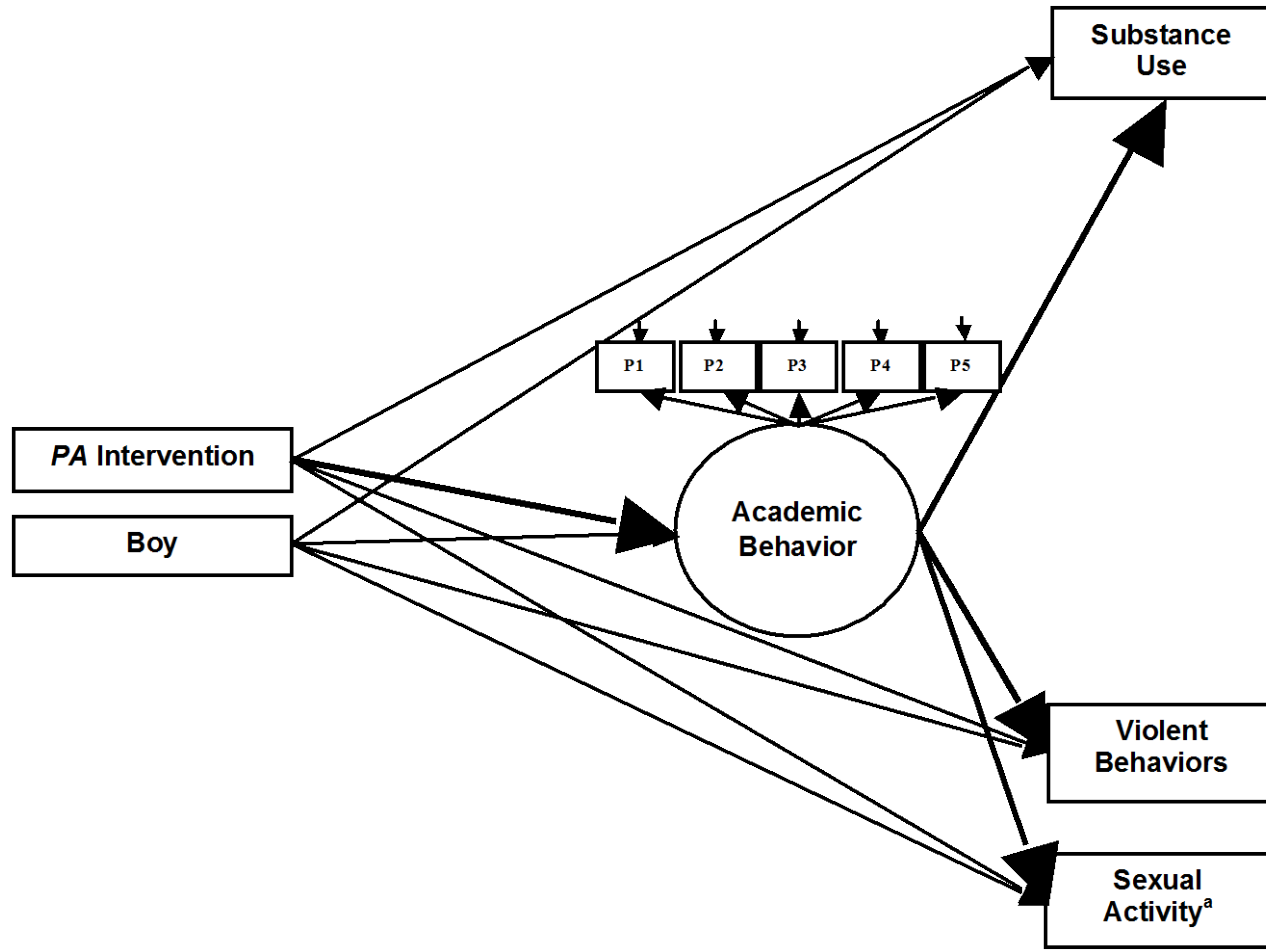


MEASURES: DEPENDENT VARIABLES

- Negative Behaviors
 - Substance use
 - Violent behaviors
 - Sexual activity
- Count of behaviors



ANALYSES: STUDENT AND TEACHER STRUCTURAL EQUATION MODELS



Snyder, Acock, Vuchinich et al., *American Journal of Health Promotion*, 2013

IMPLICATIONS & CONCLUSIONS

- How a program works
- Prevention science and positive youth development
- Archival school data
- Whole-school, contextual change

MURAL ARTS: PORCH LIGHT INITIATIVE

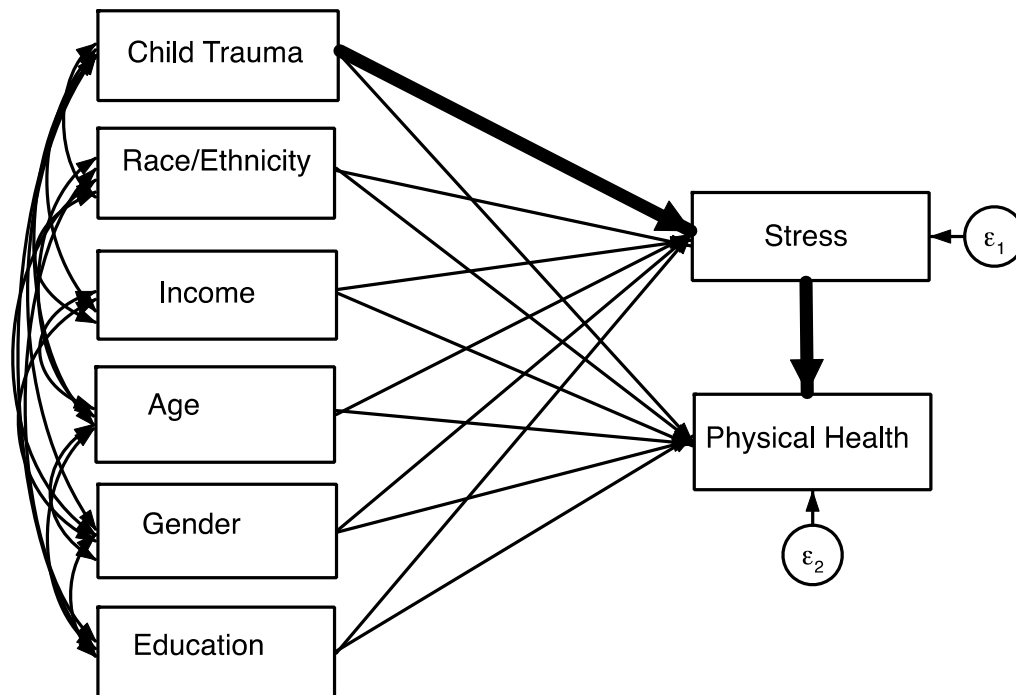


EVALUATION OF THE PORCH LIGHT INITIATIVE

- Individual-level variables
 - Health
 - Personal and social stigma
 - Recovery, healing, and transformation
 - Social support and connectedness
 - Attitudes about help seeking
 - Service utilization and satisfaction
 - Neighborhood safety and aesthetic quality
- Community-level variables
 - Physical decay
 - Physical disorder
 - Social disorder
 - Neighborhood safety
 - Exposure to violence
 - Neighborhood aesthetic quality
 - Walking environment
 - Collective efficacy
 - **Individual interviews**
 - **Community interviews**
 - **Systematic social observations**

BASELINE DATA

Stress as a mediator of the relationship between youth trauma and physical health among behavioral health service-seeking adults



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