



RESEARCH BYTES



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FOSTERING COMMUNITY WELLBEING

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A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH



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Work featured in this issue focuses on building community resilience and fostering wellbeing. This work helps shape practice beyond the individual person and encompasses micro, mezzo, and macro levels of interactions. From exploring bystander intervention likelihood to a special section about HIV, faculty work is shaping our understanding of community. Learn more about their work this issue of *Research Bytes*.

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

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Factors *preventing* bystander intervention:

- perceptions that intervening is **dangerous**
- **caregivers** would not want them to get involved
- it would **not effectively stop** the violence
- they need to focus on their own **personal** struggles

Factors *encouraging* bystander intervention:

- perceived **seriousness** of the incident
- witnessing **male-perpetrated** forms of dating abuse
- **relationship** to the target or perpetrator of the abuse
- **supporting** younger kids and future children (Storer et al.)



Child abuse prevention education programs should offer information on:

- Signs and symptoms of **trauma** and its effects on wellbeing
- **Recognizing resurfacing** of thoughts, emotions, and behaviors associated with past trauma
- **Skills** to manage those thoughts, emotions, and behaviors
- **Resources** in the community to treat the psychological impact of trauma

(Sar & Bledsoe)

When It's Safer To Walk Away: Urban, Low Opportunity Emerging Adults' Willingness To Use Bystander Behaviors In Response To Community And Dating Violence

Storer, McCleary, & Hamby

Children and Youth Services Review 121

This study explored factors related to willingness to engage in bystander intervention behaviors in response to community and dating violence among urban, low-opportunity urban adults. Across focus groups, participants described being exposed to multitude of different forms of community-level trauma and their everyday lives were punctuated with experiences of racism and discrimination. Further, participants described a history of betrayal by community institutions, leading to a lack of trust in these structures. Participants overwhelmingly reported reluctance to use bystander intervention behaviors in response to witnessing violence due to perceived danger and community norms against involving authorities. The findings challenge universal recommendations to be an active bystander, underscoring the importance of considering individuals' trauma histories. Even seemingly innocuous statements like "see something, say something" need to be contextualized by perceived level of threat and the acknowledgement that sometimes "doing nothing" may be the safest decision in contexts of extreme community violence.

Willingness to Intervene in Child Abuse and Neglect: An Exploratory Study

Sar & Bledsoe

Child Abuse Review 30(3)

This exploratory study was conducted in the context of a community-based training program designed to educate community members about child maltreatment to explore whether demographic and situational variables are associated with willingness to intervene if child abuse/neglect is observed and whether perceived knowledge of abuse and neglect symptoms mediate the effect of trauma history on willingness to intervene. Results showed high levels of perceived knowledge and willingness to intervene in this sample, with Black respondents reporting more willingness to intervene. History of trauma was associated with willingness to intervene and was mediated by perceived knowledge. Efforts to promote child abuse prevention should incorporate information for participants on how their trauma may impact their ability and willingness to intervene and how to manage any distress associated with past trauma.

Self-isolation can be a **protective factor** for some youth against the backdrop of **poverty, systemic racism, violence, and marginalization.**

It's important to consider these contexts in relationship to **trauma, resilience,** and the **experiences** of youth and to address risk and protective factors across **micro, mezzo, and macro** levels of interaction.

(Storer et al.)



Tweets encompassing the theme **"You Can't Just Leave"** highlighted

- the emotional toll of abuse
- external barriers to leaving
- challenges to safely existing abusive relationships

(Storer & Rodriguez)



Institutions of higher education can make greater efforts to establish a culture of antiracism and to consider evidence-informed approaches to intercultural interactions that help to eliminate prejudice that drives discrimination.

Macro-level changes to institutional policies and practices are necessary to **encourage greater levels of inclusiveness and eliminate forced assimilation.**

(Archuleta et al.)

"That's Why I Stay to Myself": Marginalized Youth's Meaning Making Processes of Social Disconnectedness

Storer, McCleary, Pepin, & Stallings
Clinical Social Work Journal 48

This study explored how low-opportunity youth create meaning around the concept of self-isolation and how "staying to oneself" manifests in their lives. Participants defined isolation as a feeling of imposed isolation or not being recognized, supported, or validated by institutions and systems in their community. Isolation was described as a cognitive and physical process utilized to stay safe. Isolation served as a tool of self-protection from pervasive violence and was deemed essential to surviving and thriving in the contexts of poverty, systemic racism, and marginalization. Self-isolation came with consequences for these youth, who discussed feeling alone in dealing with life's challenges. Youth's dual narratives of hardship and strength reinforces the importance of addressing risk and protective factors across all levels. Rather than positioning isolation as a deficit or a risk factor, it's important to underscore that for some youth, isolation can be a protective factor to achieve physical and psychological safety.

#Mapping A Movement: Social Media, Feminist Hashtags, And Movement Building In The Digital Age

Storer & Rodriguez

Journal of Community Practice 28(2)

This study analyzes the feminist-oriented hashtag, #WhyIStayed, to describe how this campaign framed experiences of intimate partner violence and spurred the #MeToo movement. Five primary domains emerged from the #WhyIStayed tweets: "You Can't Just Leave," "Stop Victim-Blaming," support and solidarity, movement building tweets, and "The Impact of the Campaign." Findings highlight the myriad ways victims and their allies are challenging perceptions to "correct the record" about dating and domestic violence. Dominant media representations that minimize the seriousness of abusive relationships, decontextualize abuse, and hold victims culpable for staying in abusive relationships were challenged by participants and contextualized the lived experience of violence. #WhyIStayed helped contextualize experiences of intimate partner violence and challenged dominant discourse surrounding victim culpability and the severity of abusive relationships.

Support Networks Among College Enrolled Latinas/Os: Using Ego Networks To Examine Gender Differences In Network Language Use And Experiences Of Discrimination

Archuleta, Nuñez, & Weaver

International Journal of Intercultural Relations 80

This study used social network data to explore whether network patterns of language use represent a potential risk factor for experiences of discrimination against college-enrolled LatinX persons in a predominantly White institution. The study also examined the associations between gender, acculturation, social support, and experiences of discrimination. More than 75% of participants experienced at least one discrimination event and most of them were discriminated against at school. Findings indicate that pressure to acculturate was a consistent predictor of experiences of discrimination. The relationship indicates that maltreatment may be the consequence of not acculturating or may be used as a method to force acculturation strategies. Further, the relationship was not attenuated by social support, suggesting that they may not help alleviate pressures. Among Latinos, greater English use was associated with lower levels of discrimination, but the opposite was true for Latinas. Social networks with consistent and stable relationships may be able to reduce experiences of discrimination and their consequences.

Demographic factors related to social positions and identities, like gender, race, or socioeconomic status, are important factors in providing vital contextual information to understanding the experiences of individuals and in addressing barriers to safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives.





LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS



Stigma-related factors that lead to disengagement in care:

- Stigmatizing experiences within healthcare settings
- Trauma due to mistreatment in early HIV healthcare
- Fear of being recognized at the HIV clinic

(Harris et al.)

African American Older Adults Living with HIV: Exploring Stress, Stigma, and Engagement in HIV Care

Harris, Crawford, Kerr, Thomas, & Schmidt

Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved 31(1)

Advances in treatment and management of HIV has led to an increase in older people living with HIV (OPLWH). This mixed methods study sought to explore the relationships among stress, stigma, and engagement in care among African American OPLWH. Findings reveal that stress and stigma play a significant role in poor engagement in care in this population. Engagement in care is vitally important to successful management of HIV, but only 20% of participants in this study were highly engaged in their care. Healthcare providers must form care partnerships that are intersectional and that reduce power differences. The findings of the highlight the importance of patient-centered medical home care models, in which an interdisciplinary team works with the individuals to develop and maintain the best treatment. This collaborative effort ensures patients' needs are met while increasing provider trust, reducing stigma, and improving engagement in care.



Giving back to others plays an important role in aging successfully.

Generativity while aging with HIV is characterized by

- Reciprocity
- Mentoring
- Pioneerism
- Connecting through volunteerism

(Emlet & Harris)

Giving Back Is Receiving: The Role of Generativity in Successful Aging Among HIV-Positive Older Adults

Emlet & Harris

Journal of Aging and Health 32(1-2)

Strategies that foster resilience such as identity, mastery, and social support, are important factors in aging successfully with HIV. Being active in their community and receiving help with that community is associated with increased mastery, resilience, and health-related quality of life among people older people living with HIV (OPLWH). Generativity is the caring, nurturing, and maintaining of others. This study sought to expand our understanding of what constitutes successful aging among OPLWH. Findings indicated that for these participants, becoming an elder enabled them to pursue joy through generativity, which was viewed as a key component of aging successfully. Participants made it clear that their active engagement in the HIV community and in life more broadly are closely aligned to their sense of wellbeing.

Concerns related to PrEP Engagement for Priority Groups

- Campaign Representation
- Universality of HIV Vulnerability
- Safety
- Efficacy
- Accessibility

(Kerr et al.)



Community-Informed Development of a Campaign to Increase HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Awareness Among African-American Young Adults

Kerr, Combs, Harris, Sears, Northington, Burton, Sterrett-Hong, Parker, & Krigger

Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities 8(4)

Disproportionately high rates of HIV among African American young adults has led to their designation as a priority group for HIV prevention and management efforts. This study details how community members were engaged in the development of a multimedia PrEP-focused HIV prevention messaging campaign for African-American young adults in Louisville. Content for the media campaign focused on four categories and their subcategories identified by focus group participants. One of the most consistent concerns was medical mistrust and the safety of PrEP. The team employed a sex-positive framework to develop the underlying tone, verbiage, and imagery of the campaign materials. Actual verbiage for the campaign media was developed collaboratively between the research team, community members, and other stakeholders. Although developed specifically for Louisville, the campaign maintained key features of PrEP-focused campaigns targeting other vulnerable groups and could be applied elsewhere.

Working with AIDS service organizations and impacted community members, the AFYA Project team launched a media campaign to raise awareness and increase use of PrEP among African American young adults and others who may benefit from it.

Click here to see the campaign and to learn more about the AFYA project

<https://louisville.edu/sphis/research/the-afya-project>

SCORE.
GET BUSY.
GET FREAKY.

Whatever you call it, PrEP for it.

LEARN MORE

Ask your doctor about the safe, everyday HIV protection pill.