

Poster Abstract 46



Title

Caregiver Stressors and its Relationship to Parenting Attitudes: How Does Neighborhood Disorder Factor in?

Authors

Poinsett, M.K.* & Partridge, T.

Affiliation

*Wayne State University, Department of Psychology.

Abstract

Aim: Neighborhood disorder has been thought to be a distal risk for children's developmental outcomes. It is also thought to be related to parenting styles characterized by higher rates of strict and harsh parenting. However, this authoritarian parenting style, which is generally thought to be undesirable, is proposed to serve as a protective factor for children living in inner cities. Similarly, research has shown that caregivers experiencing high levels of stress are more likely to resort to punitive parenting (McLoyd, Jayaratne, Ceballo, & Borquez, 1994) and parents in impoverished inner-city neighborhoods face multiple chronic stressors (Earls, 1994). Our aim in this study is to examine the relationship between parenting attitudes related to the risk of abuse and abandonment to neighborhood disorder.

Method: 34 mother-child dyads were assessed via self-report survey and in-lab observations as part of a larger ongoing study of neighborhood level influences on parent-child relationships. For the current study measures of neighborhood disorder and social cohesion were adapted from a measure developed by Sampson et al., (1999); parenting attitudes were measured via the Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory.

Results and Conclusion: Preliminary results indicate that neighborhood cohesion is correlated with parental empathy with the child (-.331), level of appropriate expectations of the child (-.351), attitudes toward physical punishment (-.272), and role-reversal (i.e., child as caregiver) (-.228). Preliminary analyses suggest that marital status and level of perceived social support may moderate this relationship.

Contact

M.K. Poinsett
5057 Woodward Ave., 7th floor
Detroit MI, 48202
Phone: (313) 577-2624
E-mail: ah8069@wayne.edu