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TITLE: Understanding the Effects of Neighborhood Disadvantage on Youth  
Psychopathology

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ABSTRACT:

In 1942, Shaw and McKay reported that disadvantaged neighborhoods predict youth psychopathology. In the decades since, dozens of papers have confirmed and extended these early results, convincingly demonstrating that disadvantaged neighborhoods predict elevated rates of both internalizing and externalizing disorders, and that they do so across childhood and adolescence. It is not yet clear, however, *how* neighborhood disadvantage increases psychopathology. The current study sought to fill this gap in the literature by examining the Area Deprivation Index (ADI), a composite measure of census tract disadvantage, as an etiologic moderator of several common forms of psychopathology in two samples of school-aged twins (Total N=11,130 twins in 5,515 pairs), one of which was enriched for neighborhood disadvantage. Results indicated that, across both samples, additive genetic influences on attention-deficit hyperactivity problems were accentuated in the presence of marked disadvantage, while nonshared environmental contributions to callous-unemotional symptoms increased with increasing disadvantage. However,

neighborhood disadvantage had little in the way of moderating effects on the etiology of internalizing symptoms. Such findings point to widespread influences of neighborhood disadvantage on psychiatric and psychological outcomes in childhood, while also suggesting that these effects are phenotype-specific. Implications and future research directions are discussed.

Shaw, C. R., & McKay, H. D. (1942). Juvenile delinquency and urban areas.

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