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TITLE: Exploring the Etiology of Resilience to Neighborhood Disadvantage

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ABSTRACT:

Early-life exposure to disadvantage predicts numerous health and academic disparities. Despite this, studies demonstrate that upwards of 40-60% of youth living in disadvantaged contexts evidence resilient outcomes<sup>1</sup>. Although these youth provide a model of successful adaptation to adversity, relatively little is known about the factors enabling their positive outcomes. The current study utilizes a sample of twin pairs (N=417) living in disadvantaged contexts (i.e. family poverty, neighborhood poverty, community violence) to elucidate the etiology of resilience within and across domains. Three univariate ACE models were utilized to first explore the etiology of distinct domains of resilience: social resilience, academic resilience, psychiatric resilience. The A, C, and E variances were all statistically significant for social resilience (A=22%, C=61%, E=17%) and psychiatric resilience (A=40%, C=28%, E=32%), but only the A and E variances were statistically significant for academic resilience (A=65%, C=0%, E=35%). A common pathway model was then estimated to examine the ACE contributions of these domains to a latent resilience factor. Variance in latent resilience was predominantly explained by A and E (A=50%, C=15%, E=35%), although only E was statistically significant (follow up

Monte-Carlo analyses suggest power was too low to detect statistically significant contributions). These results suggest that although different domains of resilience are differentially heritable, there is evidence of at least moderate genetic influence on resilience of neighborhood disadvantage.

1. Vanderbilt-Adriance, E., & Shaw, D. S. (2008). Conceptualizing and re-evaluating resilience across levels of risk, time, and domains of competence. *Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review*, 11(1-2), 30-58.

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