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Neighborhood Social Processes as Etiologic Moderators of Resilience

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ABSTRACT:

Despite the known deleterious effects of chronic disadvantage, a large proportion of exposed youth nevertheless demonstrate resiliency (40-60%; Vanderbilt-Adriance & Shaw, 2008). Though resilience is influenced by both genetic and environmental influences, no study to date has examined the extent to which neighborhood social processes may impact the heritability of resilience to neighborhood disadvantage. The current study intends to do just this using a sample of child and adolescent twin families (N=1072) from the Michigan Twins Project who reside in neighborhoods with concentrated disadvantage as determined by the Area Deprivation Index ($\geq 40\%$). Resilience will be assessed using the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire completed by a caregiver. We will examine three operationalizations of resilience: the absence of maladaptive behaviors or psychopathology, the presence of adaptive behavior, as well a composite of both. After examining the etiology of resilience, we will fit genotype x environment interaction models to evaluate whether neighborhood social cohesion and informal social control respectively moderate the etiology of resilience. Consistent with a bioecological model, we expect heritability to decrease and environmental influences to increase at lower levels of social cohesion and informal social control. Likewise, at higher levels of social cohesion and informal social control, we expect heritability to increase and environmental influences to decrease.

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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