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Section C

An Ecological Model of Child Development
Macro-level environment

Political realities
Laws/policies
Macro-level economics
Historical events
An Ecological Model of Child Development

Macro-level environment

Community environment

Risk
- Arrests by age, type
- Community fertility rates by age
- Poverty
- Single parent
- Female head of household
- Age of migration
- Medicaid (proportion & payment)
- Exposure to violent media
- Access to tobacco, alcohol, drugs, firearms
- Immigration

Protection
- Educational attainment by age
- Health care facilities
- Health care utilization
- Employment rates of adults
- Informal supports
- Connectedness to social institutions
- Religious institutions
- Access to role models
- Pro-social media
- Caring non-parental adults
An Ecological Model of Child Development

Macro-level environment

Community environment

Family

Risk
- Low parental education
- Family mental illness
- Maternal stress
- Large family size
- Overcrowding
- Poverty
- Access to weapons
- Engaging in health-compromising behaviors
- Authoritarian parenting style
- Exposure to family violence

Protection
- Connectedness
- Parental presence
- Two biologic parents
- Fewer siblings
- Family cohesion
- Authoritative parenting style
- Parental school expectations
- Extended family
An Ecological Model of Child Development

Macro-level environment

Community environment

Family

Peers

Risk
- Prejudice from peers
- Perception of threat
- Social isolation
- Participation in deviant culture

Protection
- Being treated fairly by peers
- Having low-risk friends
- Peers with pro-social norms
An Ecological Model of Child Development

Macro-level environment

Community environment

Family

School
- Risk: Retention, Size of school, Absenteeism, Suspension, Harsh school policies
- Protection: Connectedness to school, Academic performance, Consistency of schools attended, Classroom management

Peers
An Ecological Model of Child Development

Macro-level environment

Community environment

Family

School

Peers

Risk
- Biological vulnerability
- Intellectual impairment
- Early puberty
- Aggressive temperament
- Impulsivity

Affective disorder
ADHD
Aggressive behavior
Stress reactivity
Rigid gender roles

Protection
- Religious service attendance
- Social skills
- Average intelligence
- Higher self-image
- Higher self-efficacy
An Ecological Model of Child Development

- Macro-level environment
- Community environment
- Family
- School
- Peers
- Individual

Health risk behaviors

Physical
- Normotensive
- Age-appropriate cholesterol/LDL
- Perception of self as healthy
- Physically fit
- Injury-free
- Not overweight

Health outcomes

Physical
- Perception of self as happy
- No clinical evidence of depression
- No mental health disorders

Social
- Positive family relationships
- Prosocial values
- Relationships with healthy peers

Positive school performance
- Contributing to community