Risk and Resilience in Development

Children develop in the context of other systems
- Family
- Neighborhood/Community
- Broader social, economic, and political conditions

Risk factors threaten healthy development

Protective factors can mitigate the impacts of risks

Understanding what enables some children to succeed despite adversity informs efforts to intervene with others at risk
Resilience and Protection

Many children and families function well despite homelessness

Protective factors across levels:
- Child
- Parents/Family
- Community
- Policy and social service systems

Social support

\[
X^2(14) = 15.6, p = .336, \text{RMSEA} = .033, \text{CFI} = 0.95, \text{TLI} = 0.95, \text{SMSEA} = .068, \quad ** p < .01
\]

N = 106 families in shelter with infants (birth-12 months)
Workshop Series for Shelter Staff: Rationale

What do shelter staff know about early childhood development?

Do shelter staff express an interest in trainings? Which topics?

Would enhancing knowledge of development among staff improve wellbeing of children and parents?

Would enhancing knowledge improve wellbeing of staff?

N = 60 families in shelter with children under 5

Shelter community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Item-total (r)</th>
<th>M (SE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I feel listened to and respected when I talk about my problems to this community.</td>
<td>.62</td>
<td>2.40 (1.11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel this community works to understand my needs and values.</td>
<td>.73</td>
<td>2.52 (1.08)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When helping me solve my problems, I feel this community puts my unique perspective first.</td>
<td>.72</td>
<td>2.27 (1.06)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel I have a voice among this community’s staff (e.g., case managers, social workers, etc.)</td>
<td>.72</td>
<td>2.37 (1.06)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This community and I are working toward a common goal.</td>
<td>.73</td>
<td>3.05 (0.95)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This community provides me appropriate resources to fulfill my current goals.</td>
<td>.68</td>
<td>2.83 (1.09)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This community lets me raise my children the way I want to.</td>
<td>.65</td>
<td>2.53 (1.24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel this community works to address my needs and values as a parent.</td>
<td>.78</td>
<td>2.48 (1.02)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel this community follows a schedule that supports my needs and goals as a parent.</td>
<td>.76</td>
<td>2.50 (1.13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel this community respects my parenting style.</td>
<td>.69</td>
<td>2.86 (1.10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This community gives me opportunities for private time with my child.</td>
<td>.65</td>
<td>3.15 (1.01)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel this community supports the enrichment and growth of my child.</td>
<td>.65</td>
<td>2.80 (1.07)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel this community prioritizes my child's health needs.</td>
<td>.74</td>
<td>2.87 (1.11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel my child is safe in this community.</td>
<td>.43</td>
<td>3.15 (1.02)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Phone surveys conducted with providers across the United States
Recruited through COCs and other networks
Seeking staff who work in roles most closely involving young children
Interviews occurred from August 2020 – April 2021
All 10 HUD regions were represented
70 individuals representing 64 different shelters that serve families experiencing homelessness

Halverson, Wallace, Tebepah, Riccelli, Bajada, & Herbers (under review)

The Sample - Shelters

9 – 400 beds
Average = 65 beds

0 – 49 children under age 5
Average = 10 children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Outdoor space</th>
<th>Within adult space</th>
<th>Childcare/nursery</th>
<th>Education center</th>
<th>Play/activity center</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburban</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Sample – Shelter Staff

2 – 41 years of experience
Average = 16 years

Survey Design
N = 64 staff from different shelters across the country

I KNOW…

- How to help caregivers’ bond with their children ages 0-3
- Ages when children should meet developmental milestones
- How to support safe sleep practices for children ages 0-3
- How to support appropriate discipline for children ages 0-3
- Where to find information about development of children ages 0-3

OTHER STAFF KNOW…

- How to help caregivers’ bond with their children ages 0-3
- Ages when children should meet developmental milestones
- How to support safe sleep practices for children ages 0-3
- How to support appropriate discipline for children ages 0-3
- Where to find information about development of children ages 0-3

Halverson, Wallace, Tebepah, Riccelli, Bajada, & Herbers (under review)
Survey results
N = 64 staff from different shelters across the country servicing families experiencing homelessness

What questions about young children come up a lot in your work?

What are the top 3 child development areas that would be most important for you to learn about?

What are the top 3 child development areas that would be most important for other staff to learn more about?

Halverson, Wallace, Tebepah, Riccelli, Bajada, & Herbers (under review)
Survey results

N = 64 staff from different shelters across the country.

Graph shows percentages within sample of staff who noted these topic areas as training needs.

Trainings Needs Identified by Staff

Halverson, Wallace, Tebepah, Riccelli, Bajada, & Herbers (under review)
In Each Module...

- Introduce 3 Key Points
- Present information and examples
- Hands-on activity
- Discussion and questions
- Wrap Up/Review
Questions?

Want more information about the training series?
https://forms.gle/TDijYtaf6inRGEUh7

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