

Williams, James Herbert, Ayers, Charles D., Abbott, R.D., Hawkins, J.D., & Catalano, R.F. (1999). Racial differences in risk factors for delinquency and substance use among adolescents. Social Work Research, 23, 241-256.

Purpose:

- Identify racial differences in identified risk factors as predictors of adolescent involvement in delinquent and substance-using behavior.
- Examine what race has to do with relationship among the predictors.

Literature Review: Study used earlier research from the social learning theory (Akers, 1994; Akers, Krohn, Lanza-Kaduce, & Radosevich, 1979) which states that the acquisition and maintenance of conventional or deviant behavior depends on which behaviors are strengthened through rewards and punishments or weakened by adverse stimuli and loss of rewards (Williams, Ayers, Abbott, Hawkins, Catalano, 1999). Study also used the Differential Association Theory (Sutherland & Cressey, 1978) which states that the learning of behaviors occurs within intimate groups (Williams, Ayers, Abbott, Hawkins, Catalano, 1999).

Methods:

- Sample: Seattle Social Development Project includes 18 Seattle elementary schools. Eight hundred and eight fifth graders and their parents: 46% white, 25% African-American, 21% Asian American, and 8.5% other. Fifty-two percent were males; 41% were low-income families; and 35% were single-parent homes.
- Variables: beliefs, peer and sibling influences, family relationships, low academic and social skills, and school attachment and commitments.
- Procedure: did longitudinal study with adolescents and parents.

Results/Conclusions:

- Youth that are of the African American race have higher means on five of the six outcome factors.
- White youth have a higher means of using substance-use problem behaviors.
- Even though there are some differences among races and their measures, they aren't statistically significant.
- African American factors showed lower links than the African American race.