Achieving despite the odds: A study of resilience among a group of Africa American high school seniors

Abstract
This article reports on a study examining the phenomenon of resilience, or the manifestation of competence despite the presence of stressful life events or circumstances, as a factor leading to the academic success of 20 African American 12th-graders (10 females, 10 males) from impoverished backgrounds. Interviews were conducted with these at-risk but achieving urban California high school seniors, to identify internal and external forces contributing to the development of resilience among them. Interview data suggest that their academic success is largely attributable to three protective mechanisms: a supportive, nurturing family and home environment; the youths' interactions with and the involvement of committed, concerned educators and other adults in their lives; and the development of two key personality traits—perseverance and optimism.

ABSTRACT Based on national data from Prospects: The Congressionally Mandated Study of Educational Growth and Opportunity, researchers identified individual characteristics that distinguished academically successful, or resilient, third grade students from minority and low socioeconomic status (SES) backgrounds from their less successful, or non-resilient, peers. Studies show that once African American women access prenatal care, it tends to be of lower quality and the women experience more complications. Current health status, health history, stress, and experiences of racism may contribute to maternal and infant mortality when coupled with lower-quality prenatal care. Despite this progress, however, researchers and practitioners need better data on health disparities and a more systematic, continual review of maternal and infant deaths in order to develop prevention efforts and quality improvement programs. The following research gaps need to be addressed: The lives of African American women and infants depend on it. Cristina Novoa is a policy analyst for Early Childhood at the Center for American Progress. American high schoolers are now bringing home more report cards with A's, but that doesn't mean they're ready for college. Number of American high school
seniors with A grades rises with nearly HALF achieving the top mark despite SAT scores falling. A new study has found that nearly half of high school seniors last year were A students. The researchers say that these grades are inflated though, because SAT scores have been falling. The difference between GPA and SAT scores is most pronounced at schools with wealthy white students. At private schools especially, the rate of inflation is about three times higher than in public schools. By Ashley Collman For Dailymail.com. Published: 15:14 GMT, 18 July 2017 | Updated This article reports on a study examining the phenomenon of resilience, or the manifestation of competence despite the presence of stressful life events or circumstances, as a factor leading to the academic success of 20 African American 12th-graders (10 females, 10 males) from impoverished backgrounds. Interviews were conducted with these at-risk but achieving urban California high school seniors, to identify internal and external forces contributing to the development of resilience among them.