

Changing the Odds: A Resilience Framework for Prevention & Intervention

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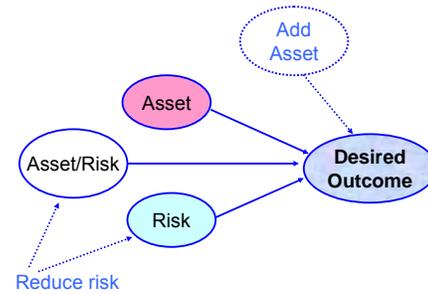
Mission: Framing Positive Objectives

- Positive statements of goals
 - Preventing violence
 - Promoting conflict resolution, healthy relationships, civic engagement, gun safety, positive youth development, school and work success
- Promoting the positive to prevent problems
- Marketing appeal to stakeholders

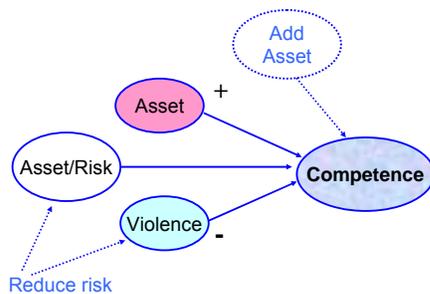
Models ~ Including Positive Influences

- Competence and positive outcomes as well as symptoms or problems
- Protective factors as well as vulnerabilities
- Assets and resources as well as risks

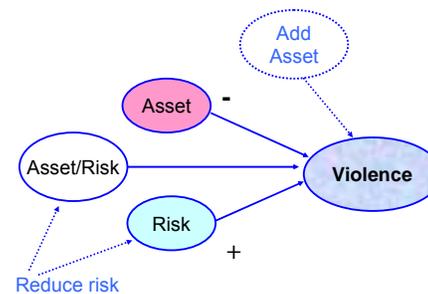
Resilience Models ~ Assets & Risks

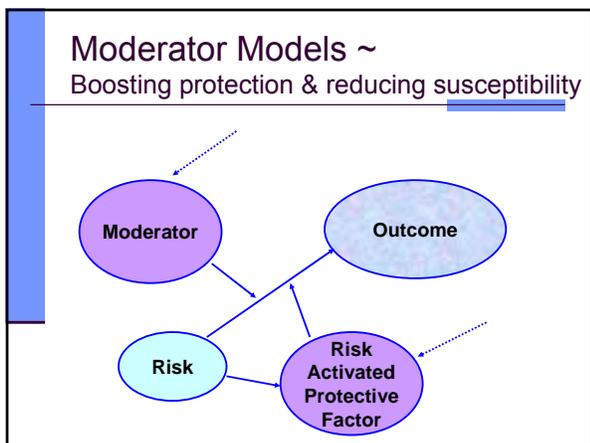
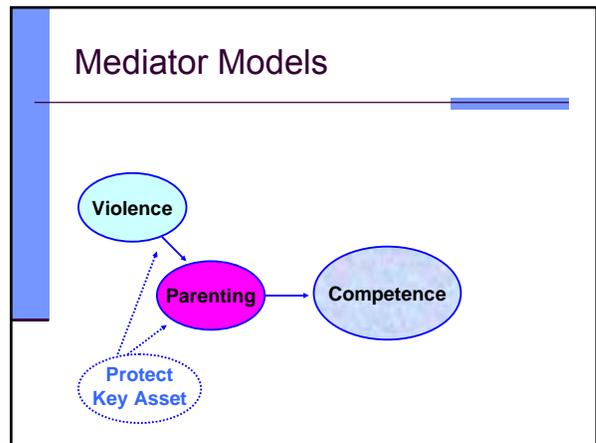
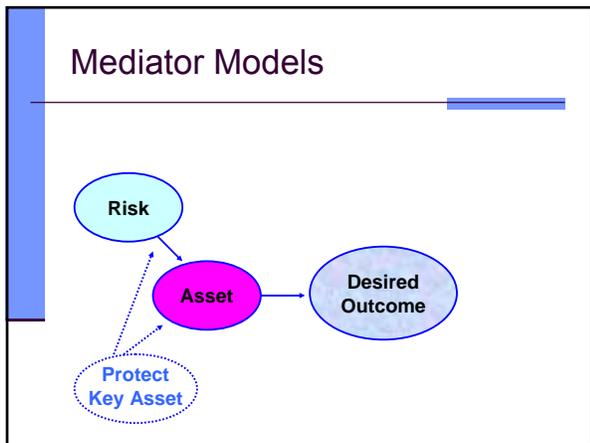
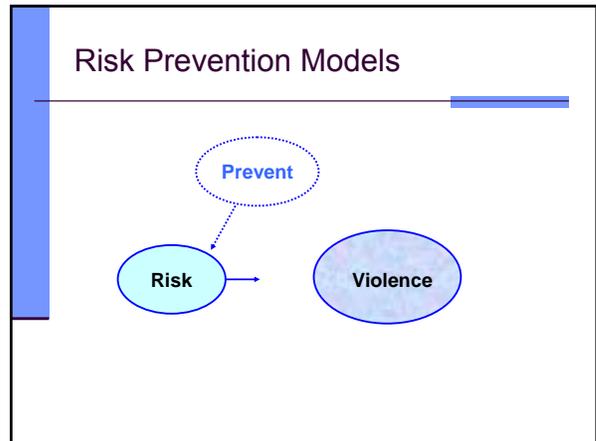
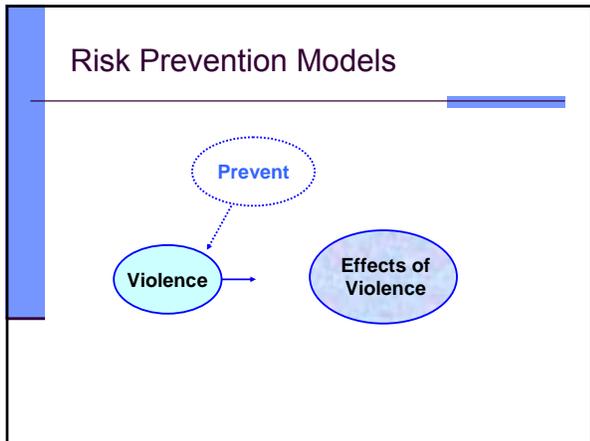


Resilience Models ~ Violence as a Risk Factor



Resilience Models ~ Violence as an Undesirable Outcome





- ### Measures ~ tracking the positives along with the problems
- Assess the positive as well as the negative
 - Strengths in the child, the family, the community
 - Potential sources of resources and protective factors
 - Evaluate positive and negative outcomes
 - Gains, achievements
 - Competence as well as undesirable domains

Methods ~ Strategies for positive change

Risk-focused

- Prevent or reduce risk

Asset-focused

- Increase resources or access to resources

Process-focused

- Restore, mobilize, or harness the power of human adaptational systems

General Risk-Focused Strategies

Prenatal care to prevent LBW, prematurity
Reduce neighborhood violence or crime
Reduce poverty
Prevent homeless episodes
Clean up asbestos, lead, land mine dangers
Law enforcement
Avert war and war atrocities
Treat depression in mothers
Avoid multiple foster care placements

Violence Focused Risk Reduction

Targeting risks for child violence in multiple systems

Parent violence, rejection, neglect
Bullying in schools
Dating violence
Social rejection by normative peers
Antisocial peer groups
Media and entertainment violence
Conduct, substance abuse, and child mental health problems

Targeting risks for family violence

Interparental conflict, domestic violence
Child abuse by family members
Mental illness in family members
Substance abuse in family members

Asset-Focused

Food, water, shelter, medical and dental care
Provide tutor, nurse, Guardian ad litem
Improve teacher education
Educate parents
Build schools, playgrounds, libraries
Restore community services
Train care providers, corrections, police
Add case manager

Asset-focused violence intervention

Parent support and guidance
Prosocial peer support and leadership
Safety training and emergency plans
Positive school environments
Structured prosocial activities
Well-trained first responders
Safe schools and neighborhoods
A stake in the future

Process-Focused

Ensure that every child has an effective caregiver
Improve bonds with competent/caring adults
Foster friendships with prosocial peers
Foster school bonding
Improve systems of care
Support parenting
Nurture brain development
Provide opportunities to succeed, develop talents
Support cultural traditions that provide children with adaptive tools and opportunities to connect with prosocial adults

Protective Systems Against Violence in the Lives of Children

- Effective adult caregivers and prosocial mentors
- Prosocial friends and romantic partners
- Self-regulation skills
- Feelings of safety and security
- School engagement
- Effective systems of care for mental health
- Age-appropriate monitoring
- 911 services
- Crisis nurseries and respite care
- Diversion systems for juvenile offenders

Warning ~ Protective Systems can be hijacked

- Connections to antisocial adults, role models
- Bonding through violence
- Attachment to deviant peers, gang leaders
- Feelings of mastery through crime, violence
- Cultures & religions can promote violence

Developmentally Strategic Methods

- ▶ Understanding risk, resilience, and violence from a developmental perspective
- ▶ **Windows of opportunity for change**
- ▶ **Basic developmental training** for all first responders, including doctors, teachers, police and firefighters, emergency workers
- ▶ We need to learn not only what works but **WHEN**

A Developmental Prevention Continuum

Developmental approach

- Prenatal
- Preschool
- School entry
- Transitions to adolescence and secondary
- Transitions to adulthood
- Roads to competence and success

Corrections as developmental course corrections

- Keeping them off antisocial roads and headed toward success
- Getting them off early – redirecting development
- Later forks in the road – facilitating later bloomers
- Way down the road and steeply uphill...

Interventions that work typically ...

- ▶ Are developmentally informed
- ▶ Culturally appropriate
- ▶ Ecologically strategic
- ▶ Take advantage of existing strengths
- ▶ Mobilize the power of basic human adaptation systems
- ▶ Promote competence as they reduce risk or problems

Resilience Principles in the Context of Terrorism

- 1 The nature of the threat must be considered
- 2 Developmental timing will influence child and family reactions, protections, and developmental sequelae
- 3 The experiences and consequences for the children will be mediated and moderated by family, peer, and school systems, and particularly by the quality of their relationships
- 4 Individual differences in vulnerabilities and capabilities will influence child responses and recovery patterns
- 5 Interventions can be directed at different phases of terrorism, different processes, and different kinds of children, in different situations
- 6 Front-line responders need to know about normal and pathological responses to trauma as well as strategies for prevention