



SPRING 2023

Youth Health and Development Lab

We study how life experiences and social factors shape young people's health, development, and wellness.

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MEET THE TEAM!



Liana Willis
Research Assistant



Angie Louie
Research Assistant



Kayla Daniel
Research Assistant



Chelsea McElwee
Graduate Student



Marilyn Serrano
Research Assistant



Iman Abuhijleh
Research Assistant



Mikayla Vincent
Research Assistant



LeNisha Williams
Graduate Student



Laura Perez
Research Assistant

MEET THE TEAM!



Tate LeBlanc
Graduate Student



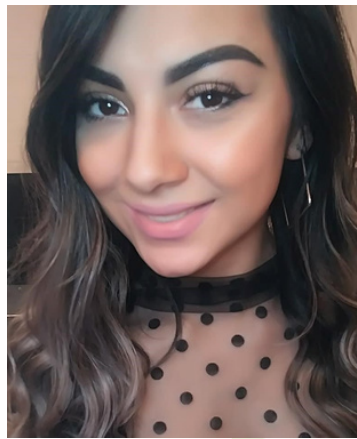
Linsey Donovan
Graduate Student



Sierra Sutton
Research Assistant



Nia Williams
Graduate Student



Arlene Sagastume
Collaborator



Anthony Stevens
Research Assistant



Kianna Cruz
Research Assistant



Dr. Aerika Loyd
Director

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

WELCOME!



Joshua Murillo

Graduate Student Researcher



Chelsea McElwee

Graduate Student Researcher



Nia Williams

Graduate Student Researcher

CONGRATULATIONS!



Mikayla Vincent
Research Assistant

After graduation, Mikayla is planning on taking a gap year and will pursue a Master's in either Marriage and Family Therapy or Social Work.



Liana Willis
Research Assistant

After graduation, Liana will start applying to doctoral programs in community and school psychology. She's interested in researching community and school-based interventions to prevent violence and involvement with the justice system.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

PATHWAYS TO RESILIENCE

The UCR Youth Health and Development Lab is seeking African American youth and parents to complete a survey and optional interview. The purpose is to learn more about the mental health of African American youth who have encountered the juvenile justice system.

To be eligible the youth must:

- Have had contact with police or the juvenile justice system
- Be between the age of 12 and 17
- Identify as Black or African American
- Live in Southern California

Youth and Families will be compensated for their time!

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR STORY

If you are interested, please contact our team!
Email: youthdevlab.ucr@gmail.com
Phone: (951) 827-2535

Follow us on social media!
@ucr_youthdev

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Pathways To Resilience

This project aims to investigate risk and resilience as they relate to the mental health of Black youth who've faced experiences with the juvenile justice system or law enforcement. The goal of this project is to learn more about ways to provide support for Black youth and their families.

The MedLab Experience

Based in Chicago, this project explores the effects of a high-tech, interactive educational exhibit on diverse urban youth. This study is especially interested in the exhibit's ability to shape young people's STEM career interests and perceptions of belonging in the fields of STEM.

College Student Identity Project

This online project focuses on how racially diverse college students construct their identity around culture, and implications of identity for academic achievement, mental health, and well-being. Data collection for this project is currently underway at UCR.



COMING SOON

Prosperity Among Caregivers and Teens: Cultivating Dreams & Reimagining Futures

This project will aim to learn more about the ways parents support their child(ren), cultural socialization, and their hopes and dreams for their child.

To learn more and stay updated with our current projects visit <https://youthdevlab.ucr.edu/> or scan the QR code with any mobile device.



Community Engagement

In Action



We attended several community events in Riverside and Perris throughout the academic year. We were able to interact with community members, hand out informational flyers, and explain what we do at the lab as well as our research projects. Talking with community members was the best part about the day. We hope to meet more community members and organizations at events this summer!



Radio Interview

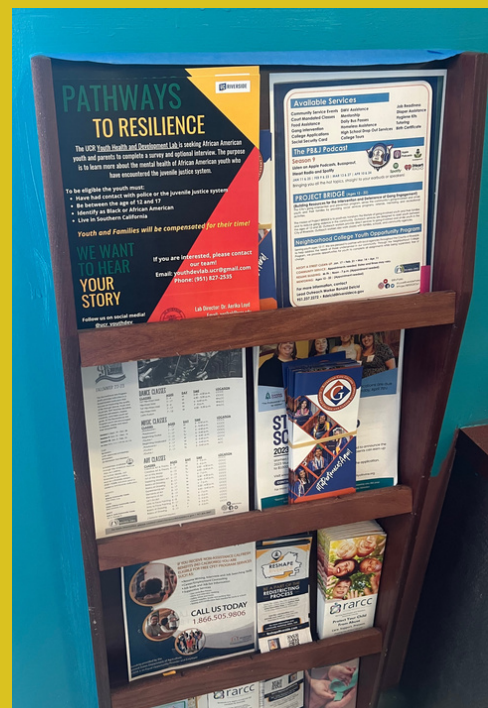
Mental health matters

In an episode titled "More girls than boys are suffering mentally, says CDC" on KCRW, Dr. Loyd discussed some of the risk factors contributing to negative mental health consequences among young girls while also highlighting the opportunity for resilience.

Click [HERE](#) for the full interview



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Flyer Dissemination

Community Engagement



Weekly Lab Meetings

Throughout the year, we met on a weekly basis to provide programmatic updates about lab efforts around community engagement, projects, scientific papers, conferences and much more.

Collaboration

We partnered with the Cultural Resiliency and Motivation lab, organizing a social event to network with other researchers. Also, attended several community events with UCR Child Studies to recruit families for future and on-going studies.



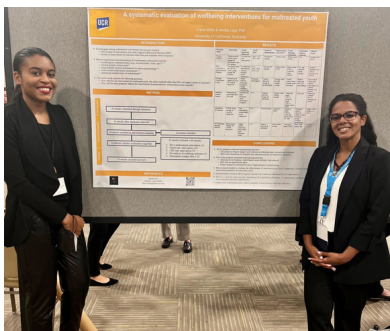
Community Meetings

Attending monthly meetings at Bordwell Community Center to promote current lab projects and connect with community members in the Riverside area. Also, an opportunity to network with other organizations, county departments, and schools.



Conferences

We attended professional conferences: Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA), Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), and Western Psychological Association (WPA). In 2023, the WPA conference was held in Riverside.



A Systematic Evaluation of Interventions for Maltreated Youth found that relational approaches to intervention were effective at improving wellbeing in maltreated youth.

An Investigation of Identification, Identity, and Science Career Interests Among Black and Latine Emerging Adults highlighted the importance of educational interventions to increase knowledge about diverse scientists in order to help enhance students' sense of belonging in STEM.



Associations Between Cultural Assets, Social Dominance, and Intent to Pursue Science found a direct association between ethnic-racial identity and intent to pursue science. School racial socialization and social dominance were indirectly associated with intent to pursue science.



Discrimination, Academic Outcomes, and College Students' Identity Shifting Status: The Moderating Role of Ethnic Identity found that identity shifting was associated with higher academic motivation than non-shifting among college students.



Recent Publications

"I Just Want to Be Me, Authentically": Identity Shifting Among Racially and Ethnically Diverse Young Adults

Authors: Aerika B. Loyd, Dulce W. Westberg, LeNisha Williams, Marisha Humphries, Alan Meca, Julie C. Rodil

Identity shifting to appear more "American" (outgroup shifting) was more common than shifting to fit in more with their own ethnic group (ingroup shifting) in all six categories studied: behavioral, linguistic, cognitive, physical, food, and affect. Shifting may be motivated by a desire to avoid risks and obtain rewards.

Freedom Dreaming to STEM: A Conceptual Model for Black Youth's Racial and STEM Identity Development Through Social Media

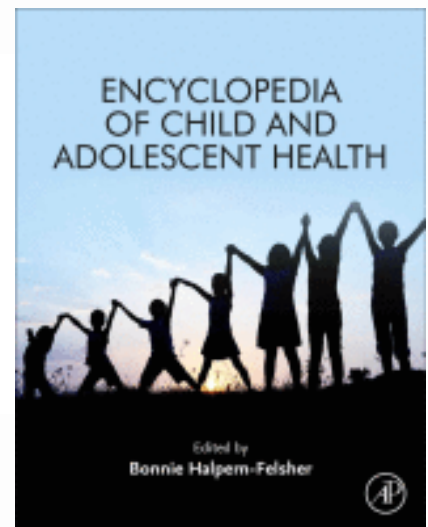
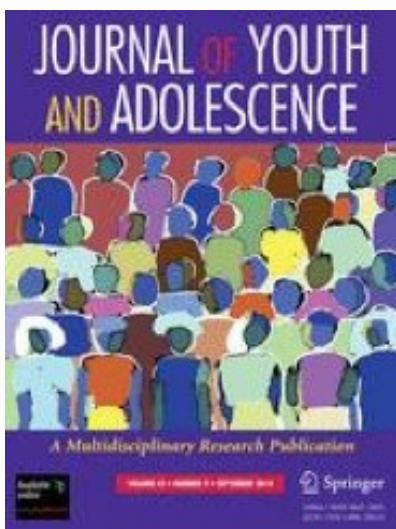
Authors: Tate LeBlanc, Aerika B. Loyd

How might Black youth integrate their racial identity and STEM aspirations in the digital age? We offer a conceptual model explaining how this process might occur through social media use. When Black youth are told to make their dreams smaller in the offline world, social media may offer online resources to help them dream bigger, earlier, and often!

Racial and Ethnic Socialization: From Early Childhood to Adolescence

Authors: Aerika B. Loyd, Marisha L. Humphries, Dulce W. Westberg, Anabelle Maya

Racial and ethnic socialization is important for positive youth development, both within and outside of the home. Although adolescents may learn about race and ethnicity outside of the home, families play an integral role in promoting positive functioning in adolescents, resulting in better academic, psychological, and physical well-being.



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