

Shifting the narrative: From surviving to thriving

For Western society, Black youth serve as the paradigm of what the detriments of this dystopian society on an individual without intervention looks like. Research is limited regarding those dimensions correlating with Black communities in relation to optimal youth development. More specifically, risk and protective factors have been examined in an 1-1 ratio, but not in context of umbrella protective factors that mediate risk and provide way for an increase in thriving behaviors. As hypothesized, there are risk and/or protective factors with greater implications for fostering positive development in Black youth as well as culturally specific components to these factors. These components include, but are not limited to- ethnic identity, resilience, social support, sociopolitical action, culturally relevant parenting, and religious and/or spiritual support. This poster presentation will focus on the literature review of the addressed topic. In the literature, rationale and statistical support for strength-based, culturally relevant “building blocks” for Black youth that align with the evidence-based model of thriving, Positive Youth Development, will be examined.