

# Poster Presentations

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 | 3:45 -5:00 pm | ROOM 306B

## Poster Session 6: Adolescent Trauma and Long-Term Effects

### # 25 LGBTQ+ Youth Homelessness: A Critical Discussion of their Past Histories, Navigated Presents, and Imagined Futures- Savannah Quach, Aaron Aguilar-Bonnette

LGBTQ+ youth homelessness: A critical discussion of their past histories, navigated presents, and imagined futures  
Savannah Quach B.S, B.A, Aaron Aguilar-Bonnette M.A. | University of Nevada, Reno

#### Background

- LGBTQ+ youth are at an astounding 120% increased likelihood to experience homelessness compared to their cisgender, heterosexual counterparts (Conron, 2020).
- Minority stress theory posits that LGBTQ+ youth also experience added layers of stress due to their sexuality or gender identity such as discrimination, prejudice, or internalized heterosexism/cisgenderism (Mink et al., 2014).
- Photovoice is an engaged research method that enables participants to record and reflect and promote critical dialogue (Wang and Burris 1997, 370).

#### Central Research Question

How do LGBTQ+ homeless youth understand their histories, navigate their presents, and imagine their futures?

#### Method

##### Survey

Participants (N=84) were individuals identifying as homeless ages 18 and above  
Survey questions asked for information on:

- Demographics
- Causal/contributing factors to homelessness
- Participation in activities
- If they connected with or found support from named entities
- If they received or needed services from named entities

##### Photovoice

Participants (N=5) were individuals identifying as homeless and LGBTQ+ ages 18-24  
Before each session, participants were asked to take photos related to the following prompts:

- 3-5 photos that represent your day-to-day life
- 5-10 photos that tell a story of your past
- 5-10 photos that represent how you imagine your future

In 3 separate sessions, participants met in groups to discuss each of the prompts guided by facilitators.

**100% of participants reported feeling unsafe or threatened by others due to their identities.**

In response to the question “Where do you feel like are places in Louisville that are better to walk around and feel comfortable?”, a participant responded with:

“I’m not gonna lie, my first thought was nowhere. That was my first, immediate thought, was nowhere, because the amount of gay, trans and LGBTQ people in general that get killed down here is ridiculous.”

“This laptop, it’s kind of my only real way to connect...I wish that there had been more...spaces where I could go and meet people”



“people get killed and shot EVERY SINGLE DAY, and they [the police] just keep letting it happen”

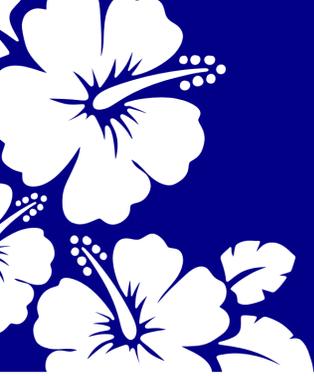


“It’s very comforting...you know, for someone who hasn’t really had much of physical comfort in my life.”

#### Discussion

- LGBTQ+ homeless youth feel forgotten, unsafe, and frustrated by the barriers to access when attempting to utilize resources.
- LGBTQ+ homeless youth aspire to form community connections and belonging. They imagine a future full of support, chosen family, and affirmation.





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### #36 Marginalization as the Root Risk Factor for Adolescent Pregnancy and Its Transmission of Trauma - Rebekah Hubacek



## Marginalization as the Root Risk Factor for Adolescent Pregnancy and its Transmission of Trauma

Rebekah Hubacek



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#### Abstract

Rates of adolescent pregnancy have been declining across the globe; however, it remains a global health problem (WHO, 2023). Risk factors of teen pregnancy have been investigated in the literature on individual, familial, and community levels (Yee et al, 2019; Penman-Aguilar, 2013; Decker et al., 2018). Belonging to a low socioeconomic status (SES) is a theme throughout these three levels, as is having adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Teens who have ACEs are more likely to become pregnant, and the likelihood increases as the number of ACEs increase (Hillis et al., 2004). The current review argues that the discussed risk factors are products of the marginalization of racial and ethnic minorities. Therefore, making marginalization the root risk factor of adolescent pregnancy. Adolescent pregnancy as a result of intergenerational trauma, and a continuation of trauma, aligns with the intergenerational trauma that marginalized populations face. Biopsychosocial factors all play a role in the continued marginalization of minority groups, that of which make them more at risk for adolescent pregnancy (Parade et al., 2021; Condrat et al., 2020). The current author challenges researchers to evaluate findings on the risks of teen pregnancy through the lens of marginalization and allow the critical analyses to inform preventative strategies and future directions of research.

#### Adolescent Pregnancy in the Context of Marginalization

ACEs and factors of low SES are disproportionately experienced by racial and ethnic minorities (Giano et al., 2020, Yee et al., 2019).

Previous research has attributed socioeconomic factors and ACEs to an adolescent's risk of pregnancy, without acknowledging the influence of marginalization.

Failing to identify marginalization as the root risk dismisses these teens and their experiences, for it does not accurately represent their challenges as a whole.

#### Marginalization: The Root Risk Factor of Adolescent Pregnancy

##### Increased Risk of Adolescent Pregnancy



##### Individual Level Risks:

Low academic achievement  
Health risk behaviors  
Adverse Childhood Experiences



##### Familial Level Risks:

Single parent households  
Housing instability  
Low-parental education  
Low income



##### Community Level Risks:

Neighborhoods with a lack of resources  
Neighborhoods with poverty



##### Low Socioeconomic Status



##### Marginalization of Racial and Ethnic Minorities

#### Adolescent Pregnancy as Trauma

PTSD was observed in higher rates of pregnant adolescents than non pregnant adolescents, thus supporting it as a traumatic event (Adanir et al., 2019).

Adolescents are more likely to become pregnant if their mother had an adolescent pregnancy (Liu et al., 2018), suggesting the trauma of adolescent pregnancy may be an intergenerational trauma.

#### Epigenetics of Trauma in Adolescent Mothers

The study of epigenetics has investigated the biological component of intergenerational trauma.

Experiences of ACEs are associated with altered DNA methylation (Parade et al., 2021).

In the mother-child neglectful relationships, epigenetic marks of neglect were related to disadvantageous genetic alterations (León et al., 2022).

Toddlers whose mother's experienced ACEs possessed higher levels of trauma-related cognition, which suggests a transmitted biological response (Fenerci and DePrince, 2017).

It can be inferred that adolescents' offspring are likely to be born with changes in their gene expression due to the parental trauma of adolescent pregnancy.

#### Clinical Implications

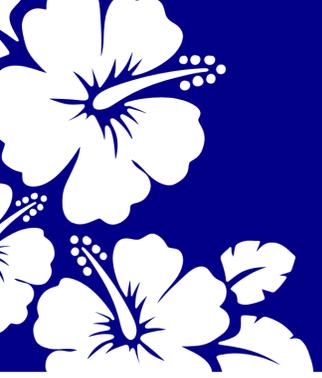
To accurately represent and understand teens who become pregnant, and to see them as their whole person, researchers must begin to critically analyze their findings through the lens of marginalization.

Researchers should continue to provide prevention strategies and future directions for all risks, with the goal of reducing marginalizing experiences of racial/ethnic minorities evaluated in addition.

#### Question for Researchers:

Are SES factors at the source of why some adolescents at a greater risk for pregnancy, or is marginalization responsible as it perpetuates these SES factors?





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**#39** Typologies of Adverse Child Experiences and Associations with Behavioral Health Outcomes in Adulthood: A Latent Class Analysis Among Gender Minority and Conforming Men and Women- Gia Barboza-Salerno

**#42** Creation of Cognitive Local Norms for Adults Residing in Hawaii Who Perpetrated Child Maltreatment- Jessica Drews, Francesca Pernice, Kimberlee Kunichika, Steven Choy

**#37** Juvenile Delinquency, Psychopathy and Childhood Trauma: A Review- Jingyi Zhu

**#31** Most and Least Common Treatment Approaches for Treating Trauma in Hawaii Public Schools- Dorian Higashi, Daniel Wilkie, Ayada Bonilla, Brad Nakamura

**#5** 'It's Important for Our Healing to Look within Ourselves': Creating Opportunities for Healing-Centered Sexual Health Promotion for (and with) Young Black Women- Ashleigh LoVette, Brenice Duroseau, MSN, Caitlin Ang, Tyde-Courtney Edwards

