

DEFINING POSITIVE HEALTH

Genealogy of Health Definitions

- Negative
- Normative
- Positive

“a state of physical, mental, and social well-being, not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”

--WHO, 1948

Composite of Recent Definitions

“Health is the extent to which an individual or group is able, on the one hand, to develop and realize aspirations and satisfy needs, and on the other hand, to develop the capacities that allow them to change and cope with the environment.”

POSITIVE HEALTH

Proposed Components:

- Character
- Spirituality
- Virtues
- Hope

POSITIVE HEALTH

Proposed Components (cont):

- Satisfaction
- Social Engagement
- Sense of Purpose

Primary Goal

To reframe the central elements of this complex field to meet the specific, practical requirements of the NCS

OBJECTIVES

1. To develop an analytic approach to identify the critical determinants of optimal health in children who do not have known health problems

OBJECTIVES (cont)

2. To assess whether approaches to address positive health could be helpful in elucidating the critical determinants of optimal health outcomes in children with known, serious health conditions

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- The impact of **developmental modulation**
- The requirement for **predictive capacity**

SENTINEL CAPABILITIES

- Capacity to transform potential into functioning
- Reflect generic pathways of effect

SENTINEL CAPABILITIES

- A strong consensus that it relate directly to essential elements of positive health
- Relate to critical transition points in childhood

SENTINEL CAPABILITIES (cont)

- Evidence exists to suggest important genetic and environmental determinants
- Relevant measurement tools available

Capability 1: School Readiness

a measure of a child's capacity to respond to challenges and opportunities presented by entering the formal education process

School Readiness

1. physical/motor development
2. cognitive development
3. social and emotional development
4. language development
5. approach to learning

School Readiness

Hypothesis 1:

School readiness will be influenced by the character of family work patterns.

School Readiness

Sub-hypotheses:

1. Genetic and biological variations will influence the impact of parental work on school readiness.
2. Preschool childcare will mediate and modify the role of parental work in altering school readiness trajectories.

School Readiness

Sub-hypotheses (cont):

3. Exposure to media will influence school readiness and will be related to parental work patterns

Capability 2: Positive Health Behaviors in Adolescence

Patterns of avoidance of tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs

Positive Health Behaviors in Adolescence

Hypothesis:

Positive health behaviors will be influenced by the level and content of exposure to media

Positive Health Behaviors in Adolescence

Sub-hypotheses:

1. To examine how biological and genetic differences alter susceptibilities to the influence of media on the development of positive behaviors
2. To assess the role that family relationships, routines and practices have on mediating the influence of media on the development of positive health behaviors

Positive Health Behaviors in Adolescence

Sub-hypotheses (cont):

3. Assess the role of schools and peer group relationships on modifying media effects on positive health behaviors