

The National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine/National Research Council: Adolescent Studies and Plans



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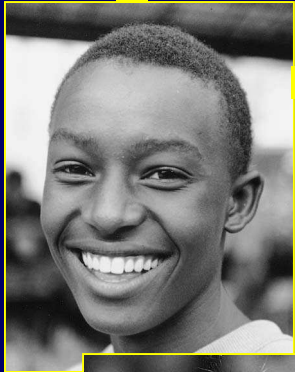
Prepared for:

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Workshop on the Science of Adolescent Health and Development

September 8, 2005

Today's Youth: A generation of firsts



- t The first to understand terrorism as a domestic issue;
- t The first to fully compete in a global economy;
- t The first to experience instantaneous communication with the world;
- t The first to grow up with the majority living a portion of childhood in a single parent household;
- t The first to live their entire lives in the shadow of AIDS;
- t The first to witness and experience the translocation of an entire American city.



The last major synthesis of adolescent health and development was completed by the OTA in 1991. Much has been learned over the past 15 years.

In 1990 we believed gender specific behaviors were predominantly the result of social learning...



...today we know that neuroendocrine differences have a significant impact on gender differences related to processing, learning and behavior.



In 1990 we had a risk or deficit model as the predominant framework for youth programs...

...today we have a *positive youth development* model that incorporates protective as well as risk factors.



In 1990 we had an invariate,
stage-based conceptualization
of adolescent development...

...today we have an ecological
model that grounds
development within the
contexts of a young person's
life.



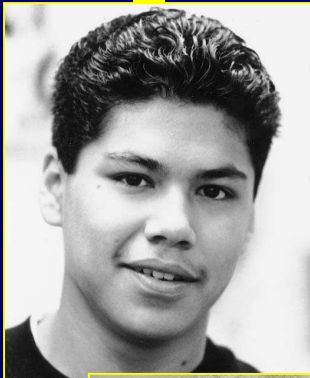
In 1990 we believed that parental influence diminished as peer influence increased in adolescence...

...today, we understand that parents are as critical during adolescence as they were in childhood, even as peer influence increases.



Given the changes over the past 15 years coupled with the growth in our knowledge of adolescent health and development, the time is right to review and synthesize what we have learned over the past generation of research as it relates to the *Science of Adolescent Health and Development*.

The Intent of the Workshop is:



- † To identify the current state of knowledge across divergent fields related to adolescent health and development;
- † Assess the quality of that research;
- † To synthesize and integrate the research across disciplines;
- † Discuss the implications of these for policies, practices, professional development and research on adolescence.

