

Partner Organization:

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Research Site: Tampa, Florida, USA

OVER 12% of Tampa Bay area residents live in poverty, and about 400,000 lack health-care insurance. Of these about 12% are children.

Context and Risk Factors:

THE Tampa Bay Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is located on Florida's central west coast in the southeastern portion of United States. The Tampa Bay MSA is home to approximately 2.3 million people, with approximately 20% of the population

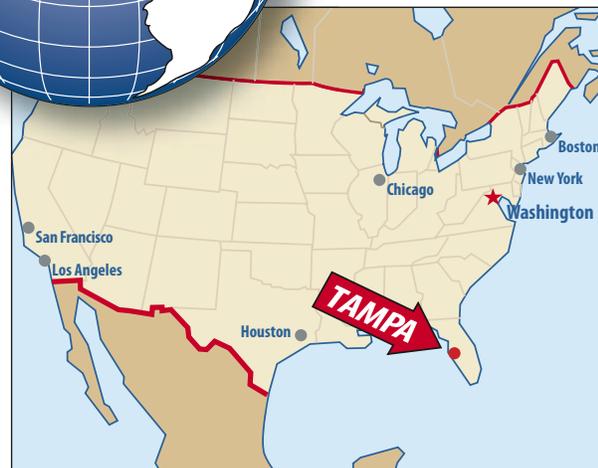
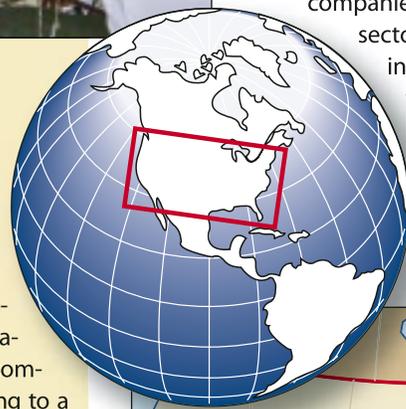
under 17 years. The word "Tampa" comes from a Native American word believed to mean "sticks of fire," this likely refers to the high concentration of lightning strikes the Tampa Bay region receives every year during its hot and wet summer months. Indeed, Florida has recently experienced a number of natural disasters (such as hurricanes and floods), which have uprooted families and caused major destruction. Tampa Bay continues to experience steady economic growth, made possible by continued population immigration. Workforce and employment growth outpace population growth. The Tampa Bay area is home to more than 180 affiliates and subsidiaries of Fortune 500 companies. Other major sectors include: mining, construction, finance, insurance, and real estate. Despite this economic growth and

wealth, there are over 15,000 homeless individuals in the Tampa Bay area - an increase of 20% over the past 2 years. Over 12% of Tampa Bay area residents live in poverty, and about 400,000 lack health-care insurance. Of these about 12% are children. As a state, Florida ranks 34th, out of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, regarding the welfare of its children. Child welfare services are locally privatized; there are not-for-profit lead agencies and provider networks that are responsible for child protection services. It is increasingly common for children to be raised by their grandparents or in foster care. The city of Tampa ranks 25th in the USA as one of the least safe cities, based on crime statistics.¹ Vehicle theft, rapes, robbery, and aggravated assault are common. The number of children and teens killed by firearms in Florida in 2003 was 137, which included 86 homicides, 43 suicides, 4 accidents, and 4 of unknown intent². Other key adversities faced by Florida youth include: mental, physical, and emotional challenges; parental neglect and abuse; and drug abuse.



WHAT is the International Resilience Project (IRP)?:

The IRP is a mixed-methods, culturally sensitive approach to understanding how youth around the world effectively cope with the diverse challenges they face. The IRP now has partnerships with researchers and community-based organizations on six continents in over 25 communities. The IRP is currently bringing to a close the first three-year phase of research, in which data was collected with over 1500 children in 14 communities worldwide. Tampa, Florida, USA was one of those communities.



For further information:

For a full discussion of the *International Resilience Project*, please see the accompanying Project Report contained with this package or visit us at our website www.resilienceproject.org

For copies of this report, please contact:

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Participants: 110 youth participated in the study from Florida, all of whom were female (100%). The average age of participants was 19 years (ranging from ages 16 to 20), with an average education level of grade 10 (ranging from grades 7 to 12). The communities of the participants saw the youth as coping well, based on culturally appropriate norms for behavior.

Studying Resilience:

An international team of researchers created the content for the **Child and Youth Resilience Measure (CYRM)**, a 58-item instrument administered across all 14 research-sites. Local research teams also added 15 contextually and culturally specific questions to the CYRM during its administration in their communities. Questions were scored from 1 (do not at all agree) to 5 (agree a lot) by the youth themselves.

Sample of Southern USA CYRM Mean Scores

(Highest, lowest, and largest variance when compared to overall CYRM mean)

Order	CYRM Question listed by Mean Score	Site mean	Global mean	Variance	Color codes
1	Is getting an education important to you? (CYRM 10)	4.8	4.4	0.4	■
2	Do you think non-prescription drugs and/or alcohol will help you when you have to deal with lots of problems? (CYRM 33) Reverse scored	R4.8	3.9	0.9	■
3	Are you proud to be (Nationality: American)? (CYRM 53)	4.7	3.9	0.8	■ ■
4	Do you feel safe when you are with your family? (CYRM 48)	4.6	4.1	0.5	■
5	Do you have opportunities to show others that you are becoming an adult? (CYRM 43)	4.4	3.4	1	■
6	Are you comfortable with how you express yourself sexually? (CYRM 18)	4	3.3	0.7	■
7	Do you talk to your family about how you feel? (CYRM 29)	3.8	3.1	0.7	■
8	Is there a difference between your family's values and those of most others in your community? (CYRM 57)	2.9	3.1	-0.2	■ ■
9	Do you believe that life should be lived in a certain way? (CYRM 15)	2.7	3.1	-0.4	■ ■
10	Does your family have a ritual or routine around mealtimes? (CYRM 19)	2.2	2.9	-0.7	■ ■
11	Do you participate in organized religious activities? (CYRM 46)	2.2	2.7	-0.5	■ ■

Overall Mean across 58 CYRM questions 3.7 3.4 0.3

- Highest Site Scores on CYRM
- Largest Variance Below Global Mean (-)
- Lowest Site Scores on CYRM
- Largest Variance Above Global Mean (+)

Southern USA CYRM Results:

Across all 58 measures of the CYRM, USA's mean (3.7 out of a possible 5) was higher than the global sample mean across all sites (3.4/5). Within the American sample, youth placed particular importance (or scored themselves highest) on CYRM questions: 10 'Is getting an education important to you?'; 33 'Do you think non-prescription drugs and/or alcohol will help you when you have to deal with lots of problems?'; 53 'Are you proud to be (Nationality:)?'; and 48 'Do you feel safe when you are with your family?' It is important to note that CYRM Question 33 is reverse scored. A high score indicates that youth **do not** think non-prescription drugs and/or alcohol will help when they have to deal with lots of problems.

American youth gave their lowest scores to questions: 57 'Is there a difference between your family's values and those of most others in your community?'; 15 'Do you believe that life should be lived in a certain way?'; 19 'Does your family have a ritual or routine around mealtimes?'; and 46 'Do you participate in organized religious activities?'

When compared to the global sample, American youth showed the most **positive variance** (scoring higher than the overall mean for youth globally) on questions: 53 'Are you proud to be (Nationality:)?'; 43 'Do you have opportunities to show others that you are becoming an adult?'; 18 'Are you comfortable with how you express yourself sexually?'; and 29 'Do you talk to your family about how you feel?'

American youth showed the largest **negative variance** (scoring lower than the overall mean for youth globally) on questions: 57 'Is there a difference between your family's values and those of most others in your community?'; 15 'Do you believe that life should be lived in a certain way?'; 19 'Does your family have a ritual or routine around mealtimes?'; and 46 'Do you participate in organized religious activities?'. These were the same four questions that American youth gave the lowest scores to overall.



Understanding the Results "Ecologically":

The IRP team reached consensus that the 58 global CYRM questions could be separated into four unique and important aspects of resilience: *individual traits and characteristics, relationship factors, community contexts, and social and political aspects of culture*. Of the 58 CYRM questions, 23 related to individual traits and characteristics, 7 related to relationship factors, 15 to community contexts, and 12 related to aspects of culture. Focus on these four areas of resilience shows which aspects are most relevant to children's success in difficult contexts. One can see from the chart below which aspects of resilience are more or less important to American youth (girls) when compared to youth across all 14 research-sites.

Four-part Ecological Model:

Gender Comparison of Southern USA Site Means with Overall Sample Means (All Sites)

Ecological Model (Aspects of Resilience)	Site	Global	Girls		Boys	
			S. USA	Global	S. USA	Global
Individual Aspects	3.8	3.4	3.8	3.4	N/A	3.4
Relationship Aspects	3.8	3.4	3.8	3.5	N/A	3.3
Community Aspects	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.6	N/A	3.5
Culture Aspects	3.3	3.3	3.8	3.3	N/A	3.3

Endnotes

- Risk factors and context information provided by IRP site partners at the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute
- Florida Crime Index Rates Per 100,000 Inhabitants. The Disaster Center. Retrieved November 6, 2005 from The Disaster Center Website: <http://www.disastercenter.com/crime/flcrime.htm>