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Research on Social Development Theories

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| **Type of research** | **People involved in the research** | **Summary of research goals or findings.** |
| 2015: A Trial of *Connecting* to Prevent Drug Abuse  and Risky Behaviors in Foster Teens - Randomized controlled trial in Washington State | Kevin P. Haggerty and Susan Barkan with funding from National Institute on Drug Abuse | This is a substance abuse and risky sexual behavior prevention program for foster teens and their caregivers. The program was adapted for use within the child welfare system, from Staying Connected with Your Teen (SCT), a family-based, self-directed prevention program. The researchers hope to find good results such as less family conflict, clearer family expectations for behavior, less favorable attitudes for drug use, and a reduction in some risky problem behaviors in foster families in the program condition compared to wait-list controls after implementing their new program. |
| 2013: data analysis project studying the Effects of Child Maltreatment on Antisocial Behavior | Todd I. Herrenkohl with funding from National Institute of Justice | This project that seeks to replicate and extend published research findings on the combined and unique effects on antisocial behavior, crime, and adulthood interpersonal violence perpetration and victimization of differing forms of child maltreatment and childhood exposure to domestic violence, subsequent forms of victimization, and stress. The study also investigates patterns of resilience in maltreated children and predictors of desistence in antisocial behavior for maltreated and multiply victimized children. |
| 2013: long term data analysis project called studying the Effects of Marijuana Legalization in Washington State on  Norms, Use and Parenting | Rick Kosterman with funding from National Institute on Drug Abuse | The goal of this study is to investigate marijuana legalization in Washington State and its association with changes in marijuana norms, patterns of marijuana use, and use of other substances. The study examines the moderating role of environmental factors and adult functioning, and assesses marijuana-specific parenting behaviors in order to inform prevention efforts |
| 2014: pilot study looking at how to Keep Families Together | Richard F. Catalano and Amy M. Salazar with funding from The Keeping Families Together Initiative is a partnership of Casey Family Programs, Oregon Department of Human Services, and the Children's Trust Fund of Oregon with additional funding from Oregon Community Foundation and the Ford Family Foundation | The Keeping Families Together (KFT) pilot study is evaluating an adaptation of the Communities That Care community mobilization model. The study is assessing whether this adapted approach will lead to improvements in child well-being and reductions in child-related problems including abuse and neglect in families with children aged 0 to 10. This pilot is taking place in two communities in Oregon. |
| 2013: continuation of a long term randomized trial - CYDS: Long-term Effects of Communities That Care on Young Adults From Small Towns | Sabrina Oesterle and J. David Hawkins with funding from National Institute on Drug Abuse | This continuation study assesses Communities That Care’s effects on drug use, delinquency, violence, sexual risk behavior, and other health-risking behaviors during young adulthood (ages 21 and 23) in the panel of youth followed since fifth grade. It also examines the adoption of adult roles (including employment, military service, college attendance, romantic relationships, marriage, and parenthood) among these youths who grew up in small towns of varying degrees of rurality and how different pathways to adulthood may be associated with drug use, delinquency, violence, and other health-risking behaviors during this period of life. |

I think that the study on the effects of marijuana on young people in Washington is a useful and compelling study because so many states are considering legalizing this drug. With so many young people experimenting with marijuana, we need to know what the effects are so that we can help minimize the problems and understand what’s going on. I noticed that most research consists of very long studies or they are continuations that built on previous studies. It seems that psychologists tend to look at ways to build on research they agree with as opposed to studying something totally new and different. I think that the increase in every day technology such as iPhones and the use of many types of communication that are not face to face will greatly affect young people. I think there are possibilities for short-term and long-term future studies in developmental psychology looking at the countless ways technology will affect our society.

“SDRG Projects.” Social Development Research Group: University of Washington, Social Development Research Group, 2017, www.sdrg.org/projectdetail.asp?Status=1.