A focus on positive developmental outcomes

- **Most research on pathology**
  - Environmental stressors (poverty, crime & violence)
  - Social disorganization
  - Negative Outcomes (disruptive behavior, psychopathology)

- **What about “protective factors”**?
  - Parenting
  - Family functioning
  - Involvement in prosocial activities (volunteerism, religion, etc.) (& less unsupervised time)
Methods

- Four waves of data collection
- 11-14 years through 16-19 years of age
- 148 African American, 193 Latino males
- Low income
- 3 hour interviews
- Measures: school engagement, prosocial values, depression, problem behaviors
- Predictors: stressful life events, coping effectiveness, prosocial engagement, family functioning
Results

- Stress and poor family functioning lead to negative outcomes.
- Good family functioning & engagement in prosocial activities led to positive outcomes (school engagement, etc.)