

Village Building and School Readiness: Opportunities in Poor, Immigrant, and Minority Communities

The State Early Childhood Policy
Technical Assistance Network (SECPTAN)

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**Workshop for
Closing Racial and Ethnic Gaps Conference**

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www.finebynine.org
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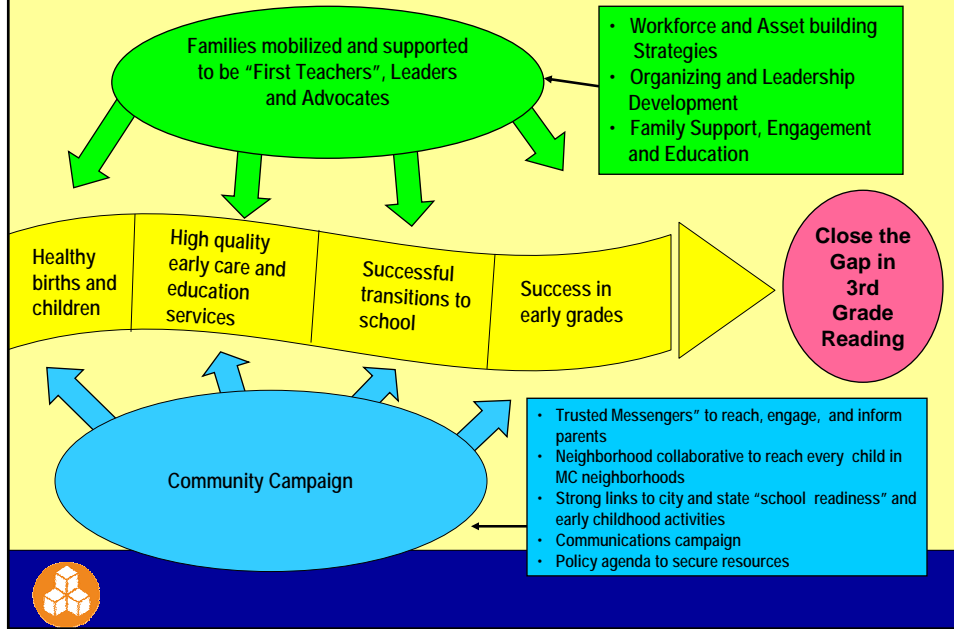


Village Building and School Readiness: Key Themes

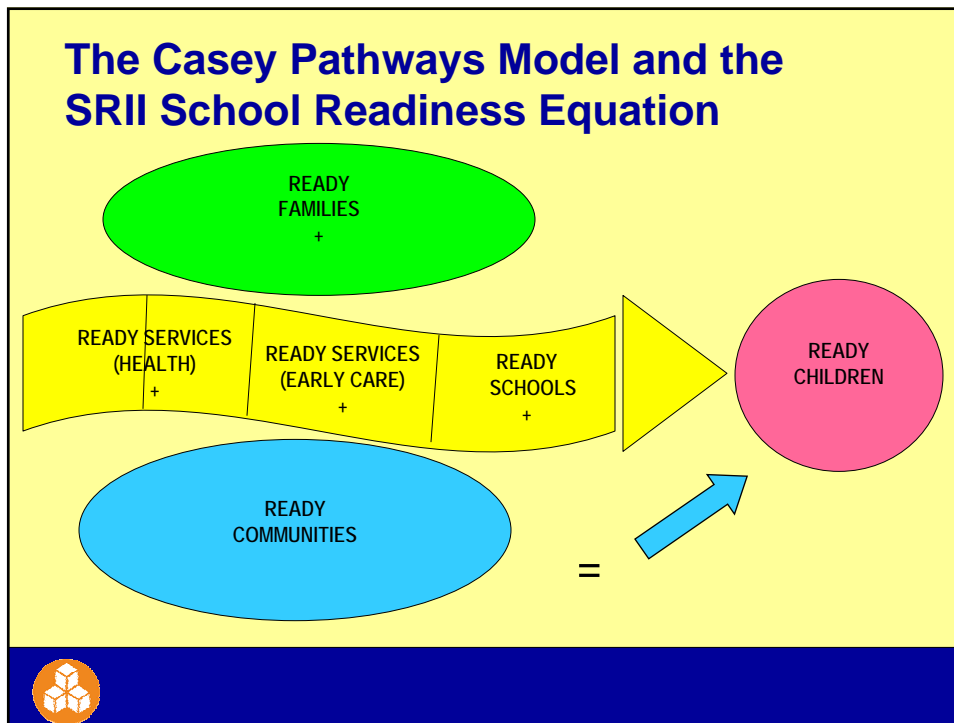
- **Context:** Conditions and Factors in Poor, Immigrant, and Minority Neighborhoods (census tract analysis) Contributing to School Readiness
- **Research:** Importance of Neighborhood in Ensuring School Readiness
- **Promising Strategies:** Exemplary Programs Combining Village Building With Child Development
- **Workforce Issues:** Role of Indigenous Workforce Development to Achieving Success



The Casey Pathways Model



The Casey Pathways Model and the SRII School Readiness Equation



Context: Differences Across Neighborhoods in America

Differences Across Census Tracts by Child Raising Vulnerabilities

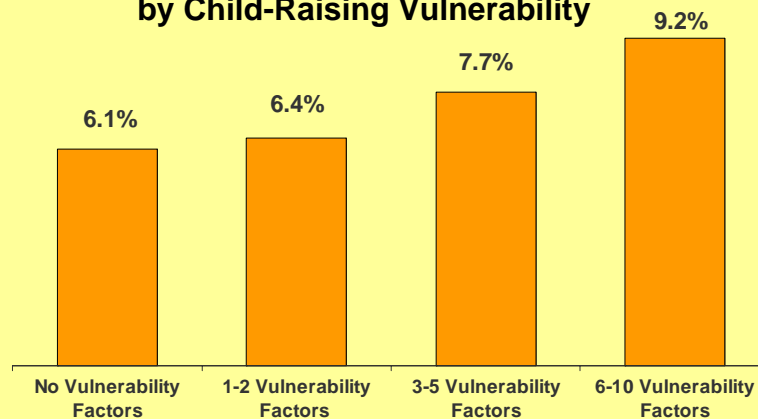
	No Vulnerability Factors	Six or More Vulnerability Factors
% Single Parents	20%	53%
% Poor Families with Children	7%	41%
% 25+ No HS Completion	13%	48%
% 25+ BA or Higher	27%	7%
% HoH on Public Assistance	5%	25%
% HoH with Wage Income	81%	69%
% HoH with Savings, Dividend Income	42%	11%
% Owner-Occupied Housing	71%	29%
% 18+ Limited English	2%	18%
% 16-19 not School/Work	3%	15%



Census Tracts and Child Raising: Place-Based Implications for Child and Family Policy Investments and Reforms

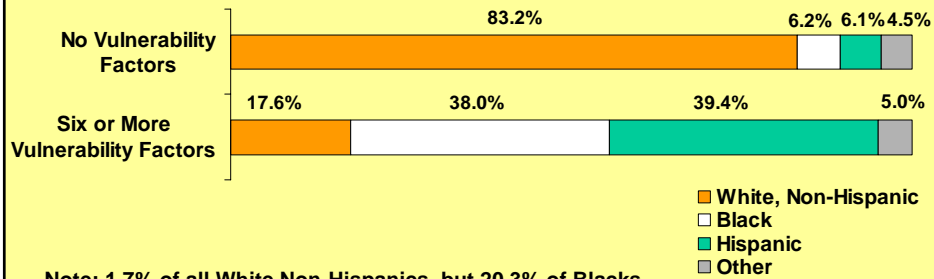
Vulnerable Census Tracts: Wealthy in Young Children

Very Young Children (0-4) as Percentage of Population by Child-Raising Vulnerability



Place and Race: Sharp Distinctions

Racial Composition of Census Tracts by Child-Raising Vulnerability

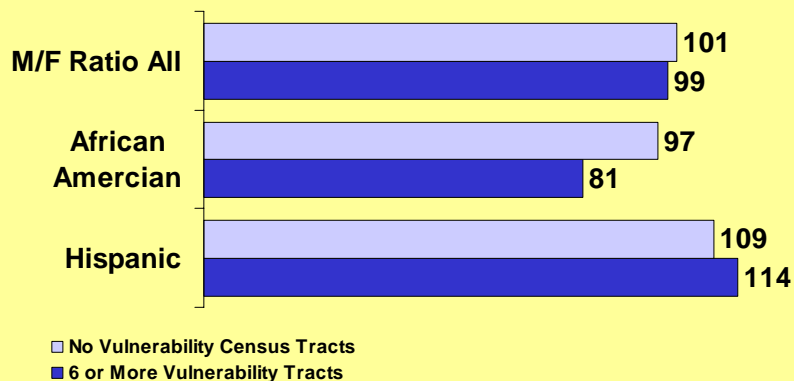


Note: 1.7% of all White Non-Hispanics, but 20.3% of Blacks, and 25.3% of Hispanics live in census tracts with six or more vulnerability factors.



Fathers, Neighborhoods, and School Readiness

Number of Young Men (16-34) per 100 Young Women



High Vulnerability Census Tracts and the Metropolitan Northeast

% of Total Population in 6+ Vulnerability Census Tracts

All Census Tracts in United States	6.7%
Northeast	8.9%
Connecticut	7.4%
Hartford County	12.0%
Hartford/East Hartford	23.5%
Massachusetts	6.0%
Suffolk County	13.7%
Rhode Island	14.2%
Providence	23.9%



Summary of Context: Importance of Neighborhood Emphasis

- Rich in young children (50% more young children as percent of population)
- Significant in size (8% of all children, but one-quarter of school unpreparedness population, with 2-5 times the rate of single parenting, child poverty, low education, lack of savings and home ownership)
- Diverse in ethnicity (83% children of color, and where 23% all African American and Hispanic children live)
- Disproportionately located in metropolitan Northeast



Research: The Impact of Neighborhood on Readiness

- Child language environment
 - Exposure to rich language environment
 - Presence of professional adults (tipping point)
 - signage and stimuli
- Child mental health and social adjustment
 - compromised mental health, delayed stress syndrome
 - maternal/paternal depression
 - *Fist, Stick, Knife, Gun*
- Child health and safety, exposure to toxins
 - Exposure to lead paint, dust/roach remains/asthma (*Rachel and Her Children*),
 - Presence of parks and recreational areas



Promising Strategies: Village Building and School Readiness

- READY FAMILIES: Vaughn Family Center, Allegheny County Family Centers, *Edgewood Kinship Support Network -- Kin Start, Play+Learn Groups*
- READY COMMUNITIES: Free to Grow, Baltimore Leadership in Action Program
- READY ECE SERVICES: Rochester Family Child Care Satellite System, Mississippi Blueprint for Quality, Florence Crittendon Services' Peer Mentorship Program, Fairfax-San Anselmo Children's Center
- READY HEALTH SERVICES: *Help Me Grow*
- READY SCHOOLS: Fruit Valley School Readiness Transition Plan, Multnomah County School Attendance Initiative, Youth Education for Tomorrow Centers,



Promising Strategies: Common Attributes

- Creative and Persistent Outreach
- Affinity-Based Engagement
- Focus Upon Assets and Reciprocity
- Activation of New Leadership
- Emphasis Upon Natural Supports
- Inclusiveness of Community
- Mutual Accountability for Success



Workforce Issues: Creating a Diverse, Professional Workforce

Racial/Ethnic/Language Mismatch of Current Pre-school Workforce and Child Population

Population Survey (Saluja *et.al.* In *ECRP*, 2002)

	White	AA	Latino	Other
Preschool Teachers	78%	10%	6%	2%
Preschool Children	63%	14%	16%	6%

2005 Descriptive Report of Pre-K in 11 State (NCEDL)

Preschool Teachers	64%	13%	15%	10%
Preschool Students	35%	22%	28%	14%



Workforce Issues: Compensation for ECE

	Child Care	Kindergarten/ Ele.Sec.
Median Hourly Earning	\$ 8.06	\$ 21.15
Gender (% female)	94.5%	81.3%
Black/AA (% workforce)	17.8%	9.5%
Hispanic (% workforce)	16.5%	6.4%

Kindergarten hourly wage based upon mean annual wage divided by 2080 hours (most teachers receive annual salary based on school year and not full year). Gender and race percentages based upon ele/sec. teacher statistics. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2005.



Workforce Opportunities: Creating Career Ladders

- Articulation and career pathways from CDA to college diploma for providers of color, including scholarships and supports
- Nontraditional approaches to skill acquisition and development for current workforce
 - for entry into professional development and broader career paths
 - simply as information and opportunity for connection to current caregiving roles
- Better compensation for child care
 - Additional community economic benefits/multiplier effects (*Many Happy Returns*)



Implications of Place for Policy and Practice

- Place matters, particularly for closing the country's readiness and achievement gaps
- Place-based strategies can improve school readiness, while building community and economic opportunity
 - community building integrated into school readiness strategies
 - staff and career development for people in neighborhood
 - re-entry and re-integration around fatherhood and school readiness
- Policy and research need to focus upon special needs and opportunities within poor, immigrant, and minority communities



Upcoming SECPTAN Publication: *Village Building and School Readiness*

Getting on List for Dissemination

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