

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

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**Motivational Patterns in Chicago-area, Evangelical Churches:
Entry and Engagement in Church Programming**

Religious organizations traditionally exert a strong influence on people throughout their lives and provide many programs that align with the goals of preventive psychological intervention. Because of these aspects of religious programs, this research draws from 32 semi-structured interviews and investigates the current patterns in both motivational strategies used by churches and general motivational factors influencing individuals in Chicago-area, evangelical churches with respect to entry into and engagement in church programming. The sample was drawn from three churches in Chicago: a nondenominational church, an Evangelical Free church, and a Southern Baptist church. The researcher interviewed the head pastors from each, as well as leaders and members of two different programs in each church. The sample varied in races and ages from early 20s to over 60. The interviews revealed four major themes regarding motivation: the necessary nature of logistics, contribution versus burden, the primacy of relationship, and the importance of personal relevance. Quantitative data asking participants to rate the importance of motivational factors in their decisions supported the interview findings. Implications for church practice are discussed.

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Learning and Organizational Change

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Leadership: Perspective and Practice
*A Look at Three Chicago Public Schools and the Relational Dynamics that Exist
between Teachers and Administrators*

Over the past several years, school leadership has begun to shift from the principal as the main agent of change to empowering teachers in school reform. This study examines the notion of distributed leadership as it plays out in practice from three Chicago Public Schools. From these three schools, interviews with teachers and administrators and meetings were coded and then compared with data from the Consortium for Chicago School Research to determine if the perceived notion of leadership is consistent with the practice. Results showed that while leaders espoused similar philosophies about engaging teachers in decision making, the philosophies looked different in practice. The structure of the routines and the ways in which the routines were enacted varied. Also, facilitation varied across schools in its process due to the developmental stage of each school's instructional improvement. At times, facilitation led to teachers feeling a sense of empowerment, but instances occurred where teachers were left out of the decision making process.

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How Liberals and Conservatives Narrate Their Lives

This study examined the life story narratives of liberal and conservative mid-life adults who are both politically active and religiously involved in a Christian tradition to determine how these stories may differ. The research tested the hypothesis made by the cognitive linguist George Lakoff in his book Moral Politics. This research looked to see if essential themes from Lakoff's book were evidenced in the life story narratives, and if so, did they significantly differ with respect to liberals and conservatives, as determined by their vote in the last U.S. presidential election. The sample size consisted of 32 participants, 16 males and 16 females. The method for this study involved the coding of the life story narratives for the themes. The study found that there were no significant differences for the themes, but some secondary correlations and comparisons were produced.

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**Convergent and Divergent Patterns in Ethnic Identification between
Korean American and Korean International College Students**

This study examines the ethnic identity formation processes of Korean American and Korean international college students. They are analyzed by looking at three variables – individual identity, group identity, and contextual factors. Interviews were conducted with 20 college students of Korean descent at a private, Midwest University. The individual identities of Korean Americans were most influenced by the amount of exposure they had to Korean culture whereas Korean international students were influenced by their exposure to non-Korean cultures. The groups were found to share a common bond in ethnic heritage, but are viewed as being socially separated. Contextual factors played a significant role in impacting the identities of Korean Americans, but did not have the same effect on Korean internationals. The conclusions of this study provide a variety of data that suggest the potential for future research on this population.

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After School and Out of Trouble: The Relationship Between Adult-Youth Mentoring Relationships and Engagement in Youth Risk Behaviors

After-school programs have the potential to provide adolescents with a safe place, a structured environment, character development opportunities, and academic assistance. However, there is a lack of research determining specifically which components, if implemented successfully, are most associated with reaching desired program results. The current study utilized surveys that were administered to program participants to investigate the potential relationship between the presence and strength of adult-youth relationships between program staff and participants in comprehensive after-school programs and the occurrence of identified youth-risk behaviors by program participants. Pearson's product-moment correlation, independent sample t-tests, and one-way ANOVA were conducted to analyze the data. Results identified significant relationships between feeling valued and reduced alcohol use and violent behaviors; and between positive mentoring and reduced violent behaviors. The study also found that females reported stronger mentoring relationships and stronger feelings of trust toward an adult in the after-school program than their male counterparts. Finally, there were significant differences between schools in terms of alcohol consumption. Findings suggest that policy initiatives should focus on developing strong and impacting relationships between participants and staff in order to attain desired program outcomes.

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Contributions of Parental Comments to Identify Quality and Safety Improvements

The patient safety movement emphasizes the importance of measuring and assessing patient satisfaction in order to provide quality health care delivery. This study is a descriptive analysis to determine family socio-economic and child medical and healthcare delivery factors that influence parents to file a negative comment against a pediatric hospital. In addition, the research attempted to evaluate the feasibility of using medical records as a source of information. The results of a qualitative analysis of fifteen medical charts suggested that characteristics such as insurance status, age of child and the level of communication with health practitioners had a large influence on parent's decision to report comments. These findings reveal possible areas of reforms for hospitals.

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Dating Christians: Muslim and Jewish young adults' experiences with interfaith relationships

While interfaith relationships have recently become fairly common among certain branches of American Judaism, they are relatively new among American Muslims. Through in-depth interviews, this research identified themes found for eight Jewish and eight Muslim young adults (19-22 years old) who have dated Christians. Although Jewish and Muslim participants described similar challenges, benefits, identity issues, and religiosity levels, more than half of the Muslim participants shared stories of hiding their interfaith relationships from their families. Struggles were especially noteworthy for Jewish men and Muslim women, partially due to their faith's tradition of religious lineage. This study has implications for understanding young adults' identity development and relationship choices in our multicultural society, as interfaith relationships and non-Christian religions continue to increase.

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**A Strong Offense: How Policymakers Report the Origins, Needs, and Beliefs
Underlying Illinois Child Sex Offender Legislation**

Over 2,000 children are sexually assaulted in Illinois each year. To prevent these attacks, policymakers have created laws to restrict where child sex offenders can loiter and reside, and have mandated the release of their names, addresses and offenses to the public. This study employs the legislative record on 3 child sex offender laws and 14 interviews with the sponsors of the laws to examine what factors originated the legislation, convinced policymakers it was necessary, and influenced their beliefs about the issue. The interviews indicate that policymakers believe the media originated the legislation and convinced them that such legislation was needed. The legislative record indicates that policymakers' values and policy research influenced the legislation. Further, this study shows a disconnect between policymakers' beliefs about child sexual assault and the actual nature of the problem. Such findings suggest that policymakers believe the media activate a causal chain of factors, which lead to the enactment of restrictive child sex offender legislation.

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Associations between Athletic Involvement and Mood in Adolescents

This study investigates the relationship between athletic involvement and mood in high school adolescents. By using the Experience Sampling Method and survey data collected from the 502 adolescent participants, comparisons were made for moment-to-moment differences in mood (comparing instances when the adolescent is engaged in that activity to times they are not), as well as person-to-person comparisons in mood (comparing overall differences in mood between adolescents who engage in athletics to those that do not). After accounting for the effects of age and gender, athlete type was found to have a significant effect on positive social mood and stressed-anxious mood. Specifically, competitive athletes are overall more positive-social than non-athletes, and have more stress-anxiety than recreational athletes. In comparing moods during athletic moments and non-athletic moments, there was a significant trend towards moments in which adolescents were doing an athletic activity being associated with higher stressed-anxious moods states, as well as higher positive moods states. More specifically, male non-athletes feel more positive mood when they are involved in athletics compared to times when they are not, as do male and female competitive athletes. Additionally, female and male recreational athletes feel more stressed-anxious mood during athletic moments compared to non-athletic moments. Results suggest that different types of athletes differ on average in their moods, that engagement in an athletic activity is associated with alterations in mood, and that what type of an athlete you are, and gender, both modify the association between engagement in athletic activities and mood states.

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The Relationship between Demographics and Field Tracking in a Substance Abuse Research Study

Due to limited resources, difficulties exist during the allocation of funds for research projects. Resources are especially limited for programs and studies that compete for the same private or public grants. These problems are compounded when dealing with a transient population such as those who participant in a drug-abuse research study. Data were examined from one drug-abuse research study to further knowledge of predicting costs. "Field tracking" was identified as the most time consuming and resource consuming dependent variable that extended outside of non drug-abuse research conditions. The independent variable, "Income," was found to significantly correlate with field tracking. Individuals with "low" and "high" income were found more likely to have been field tracked while those with "middle" income were found less likely to have been field tracked. The secondary independent variables, "Partner Type" and "Living Situation," were then analyzed, controlling for income, neither were found to significantly correlate with "field tracking." From these results we conclude that the self-reported income of a population in a drug-abuse research study might be used to predict likeliness of field tracking and thus predict extensiveness of cost.