

Trajectories of Bullying from Middle to High School: Implications for Prevention

Pamela Orpinas, PhD, MPH

WHEN: THURSDAY, APRIL 23TH. 2015 at 2:30PM

WHERE: UNIVERSITY CENTER RM 214-SPACE CITY

Pamela Orpinas, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Behavior, College of Public Health at the University of Georgia. For the past 20 years, she has conducted extensive research on the prevention of bullying in schools and aggression in dating relationships. She has written books in prevention of bullying and in the importance of prevention as a form of social justice. She has worked with the Pan American Health Organization in prevention through family interventions for Latino families. She has been a consultant in the area of violence prevention in several countries and has worked with national and international agencies to prevent violence.



Dr. Orpinas is the principal investigator of *Healthy Teens*, a longitudinal study designed to increase understanding of different levels of risk and protective factors that influence the developmental trajectories (i.e., patterns of continuity or patterns of change over time) that children and adolescents follow from middle to high school, in relation to the following violence-related behaviors: aggression toward and from peers and dating partners, delinquency, weapon carrying, drug and alcohol use, suicide thoughts and attempts, and school dropout. Using annual self-reports, teacher ratings, and archival school data, this study followed a cohort of students from sixth to twelfth grade. Although adolescents' experiences are complex and diverse, *Healthy Teens* has provided a foundation for identifying clusters of adolescents who follow a similar trajectory from middle to high school.



For more information contact CMAS at: (713) 743-3136

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