

Predictors of Weapon Carrying in Youth Attending Drop-in Centers

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Objective: To test and compare 2 predictive models of weapon carrying in youth (n=308) recruited from 4 drop-in centers in San Diego and Imperial counties. **Methods:** Both models were based on the Behavioral Ecological Model (BEM). **Results:** The first and second models significantly explained 39% and 53% of the variance in weapon carrying, respectively, and both full models shared the significant predictors

of being black(-), being Hispanic (-), peer modeling of weapon carrying/jail time(+), and school suspensions(+). **Conclusions:** Results suggest that the BEM offers a generalizable conceptual model that may inform prevention strategies for youth at greatest risk of weapon carrying.

Key words: weapon carrying, risk factors, protective factors, adolescents, drop-in centers

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