

Background

- Jessor's Theory of Problem Behavior: *negative student behavior* drives *negative school climate*, resulting in **vicious cycles** and significant downstream effects
- School climates linked to student outcomes (academic performance, wellbeing, school engagement)
- Fewer studies explore the relationship between school climate and health outcomes (i.e. risky behavior)**

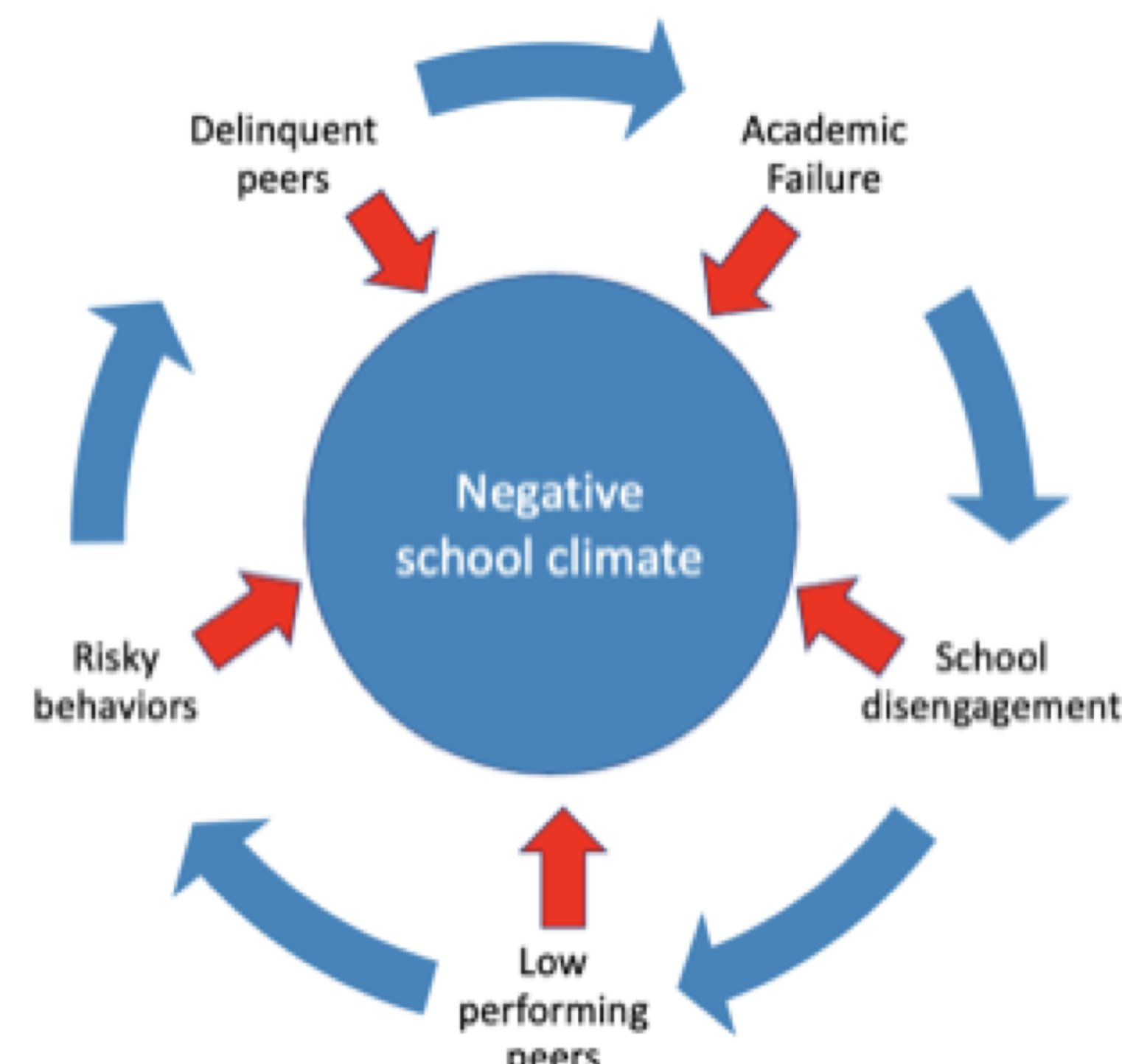


Figure 1: The vicious cycle of academic failure and risky behaviors.

Objective

To examine which school climate factors have the greatest association with adolescent risk behaviors.

Methods

RISE-UP Study

- a natural experiment following a sample of 1270t teens who applied to high-performing charter schools
- Students surveyed at baseline (9th grade) and annually

Measures

- Student perceptions of school climate in 10th grade: **School environment** (order and safety), **teacher relationships** (respect for teachers, teacher support for college), and **disciplinary style** (adapting methods traditionally used to measure chaos in the home or parenting styles)
- Outcomes:** students' self-reported health behaviors in 11th grade: cannabis use, alcohol use, sex behaviors, fighting, and delinquency.

Statistical Analysis

- STATA used to conduct linear regression analyses with random effect to adjust for clustering at the school-level.
- Models adjusted for student demographic characteristics, parental characteristics and behavior, and health behaviors at 9th grade (baseline).

Results

Table 1: Student demographics, parent characteristics, and outcomes.

Characteristic	Freq. (%)	Outcome	Freq. (%)
Total N - 1114		Total N - 1114	
STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS		Cannabis	
Male	46	Cannabis use in last 30 days	11
LatinX	90	Cannabis misuse score	16
Born in US	87	ALCOHOL	
English Native Speaker	40	ETOH use in last 30 days	15
		ETOH misuse score	22
PARENT CHARACTERISTICS		SEX	
(1 or more parents)		Risky Sex Behaviors	9
FIGHT			
US born	25	Ever been in a fight	27
Work full-time	88	Fight in last 12 months	11
High school grad	57	DELINQUENCY	
		Past year delinquency	22

Table 2: The association of individual-level school climate predictors (individually in separate models) at 10th grade with health behavior outcomes at 11th grade.

	Cannabis misuse score	ETOH Misuse Score	Risky sex behavior	Fight in last 12 months	Delinquency score
	Beta	Beta	Beta	OR	Beta
School Environment					
School Order	-0.21**	-0.21**	-0.06**	0.88	-0.17**
School Safety	-0.13**	-0.15**	-0.001	0.9	-0.05
Teacher Relationship					
Respect for Teachers	-0.22**	-0.34**	-0.03*	0.91	-0.29**
Support for College	-0.21**	-0.24**	-0.02	0.93	-0.07
Disciplinary Style					
Average	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Authoritative	-0.11	-0.3	-0.04	1.23	-0.43
Authoritarian	0.55*	0.47	-0.02	1.83	0.23
Indulgent	0.1	0.03	-0.04	1.3	-0.83
Neglectful	0.47**	0.44**	0.08**	1.32	0.66**

p<0.05** p<0.10*

Results

Table 3: The association of individual-level school climate predictors (all in one model) at 10th grade with health behavior outcomes at 11th grade.

	Cannabis misuse score	ETOH misuse Score	Risky sex behavior	Fight in last 12 months	Delinquency score
	Beta	Beta	Beta	OR	Beta
School Environment					
School Order	-0.13**	-0.11	-0.45**	0.9	-0.06
School Safety	-0.008	-0.01	0.21	0.94	0.08
Teacher Relationship					
Respect for Teachers	-0.11	-0.23**	-0.5	0.94	-0.22**
Teacher Support for College	-0.12	-0.11	-0.2	0.98	0.09
Disciplinary Style					
Average	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Authoritative	0.06	-0.08	-0.29	1.41	-0.32
Authoritarian	0.5	0.4	-0.84	1.77	0.25
Indulgent	0.11	0.07	-0.38	1.29	-0.83
Neglectful	0.28	0.19	0.43	1.14	0.56**

p<0.05** p<0.10*

Summary

- Students who report **higher** school order, school safety, respect for teachers, and teacher support for college have **lower** association with harmful health behaviors.
- Students who report **neglectful** (low support, low structure) disciplinary styles have **higher** association with harmful health behaviors.

Conclusion

Limitations

- School climate factors are self-reported by students.
- Cannot determine causal relationships.
- Sample is predominantly LatinX.

Implications

- These findings on **modifiable** school climate factors could have significant implications for designing school-level and higher-level policy decisions on health and disciplinary interventions