Overview

With COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY, Kloos, Hill, Thomas, Wandersman, and Dalton have addressed the challenge of transforming an abstract, theoretical topic into a lively and understandable subject for students. Through concrete examples and consistent pedagogy, this text helps students understand the concepts as well as how to apply them. After introducing community psychology and its history, the authors describe methods of community research and discuss how to understand communities from the perspectives of sense of community, coping, and social support. The focus then shifts to community programs and actions: preventing problem behavior and promoting social competence, citizen participation, organizing for community and social change, and program evaluation and development.

Features and Benefits

- The text features in-depth chapters on conceptual foundations of community psychology, human diversity, the psychological sense of community, implementation of prevention and promotion programs, and community program evaluation.
- The authors offer excellent coverage of the scholarly literature and provide concrete examples representing the diversity in situations and programs.
- Every chapter contains pedagogical features to enhance student understanding, including brief outlines of chapter contents, anticipatory questions to cue student interest and learning, key points, "Model Program"
boxes that provide examples of programs such as Community Change Initiatives, brief exercises to apply concepts from the chapter in real life, and numbered summaries.

- Brief exercises at the end of every chapter allow students to review the material, apply it to various scenarios, and try out ideas in their own lives and communities.
- To further student understanding of what community psychology means in real settings, the authors look systematically at dozens of programs and citizen initiatives for enriching the quality of individual and community life. Examples include the Harlem’s Children Zone, the High/Scope Perry Preschool Project for helping at-risk, poor children in early childhood, bullying prevention programs, HIV prevention, Pathways to Housing and homelessness programs, the Meyerhoff Scholars program to promote academic outcomes for minority undergraduate students, and Social-Emotional Learning programs.
- Three to five suggested readings and website references per chapter assist students interested in further information and connect them to community resources.

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