

# Institute of Behavioral Science University of Colorado Boulder

The Institute of Behavioral Science (IBS) has brought high-quality social and behavioral science to the University of Colorado since the 1950s. As part of the University's mission of shaping tomorrow's leaders, being the top university for innovation, and positively impacting humanity, IBS serves the University, the State of Colorado, the United States, and the world by engaging in fundamental research and developing and testing actions and policies that have value for everyone. IBS is housed in an award-winning LEED Platinum building on the CU-Boulder campus. It is organized into five interdisciplinary programs—**Prevention Science; Population; Environment and Society; Health and Society; and International Development**—and active research centers including the **Natural Hazards Center**, the **CU Population Center**, and the **Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence** with a grant-supported budget of \$8.5 million in FY 2014-2015. The programs engage in externally funded research that crosses scientific boundaries and connects the Institute and CU-Boulder to other scientific disciplines and to researchers and institutions across the United States and around the world. From January 2015 to October 2019, IBS grants totaled \$106 million and researchers produced more than 100 publications.

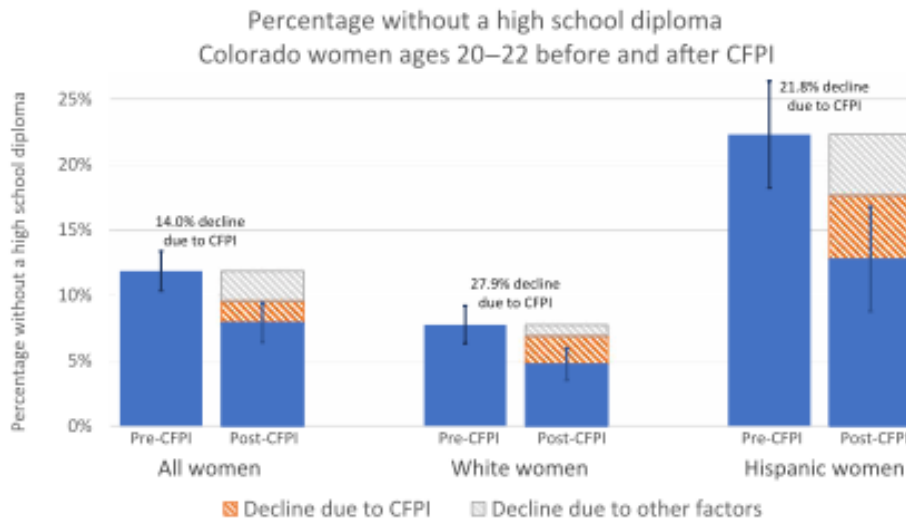


Examples of major areas of research at IBS:

- **Understanding and preventing youth violence and problem behaviors**
  - Brief summary: Interdisciplinary research and evaluation seeking to understand the nature, course of development, and life consequences of behaviors that put young people's health and development at risk.
  - Policy Importance: Create safe schools and communities, prevent and reduce gun, gang, and other violence, and support positive youth development using proven programs at local, state, national and international levels.
  - Primary sponsors: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, State of Colorado, local school districts, National Institute of Justice, Altria, Arnold Foundation
- **Health and genetics in a social context**
  - Brief summary: Understanding aspects of physical and social environments that affect population health, including biological and genetic processes that interact with social and psychological factors to affect health and well-being and including evaluating the effects of medical advances and policy changes.
  - Policy Importance: Studies bridge genetic and social epidemiology to provide new insights into longstanding local and national public health issues, and they illustrate the impacts of U.S. and state policies on health and well-being.
  - Primary sponsors: National Institutes of Health, Hewlett Foundation
- **Preventing harm and improving responses to natural and human-made hazards**
  - Brief summary: Using social science methods to understand how extreme environmental and human-caused events impact society and how societies adapt to environmental hazards.
  - Policy Importance: The impact of and response to extreme events at the national and international level; mitigation strategies for community resilience and sustainability.
  - Primary sponsors: National Science Foundation, U.S. Forest Service
- **Understanding health and economic development in Africa and Asia**
  - Brief summary: Understanding the social, psychological, and behavioral determinants of health and economic development, with a focus on social and economic disparities across the developing world.
  - Policy Importance: Major societal changes, including climate change, are shaping political conflicts and economic opportunities around the world, with strong impact on human lives.
  - Primary sponsors: National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation
- **Environment, social change, economic development, and conflict**
  - Brief summary: Interdisciplinary research on the use, management and governance of natural resources in a context of landscape transformation and climate, including agricultural land, air, forests, parks, rangeland, and water in the United States and across the globe; causes and consequences of conflict on economic and social development.
  - Policy Importance: National and international resource security for sustainability; responses to potential environmentally driven conflicts over resource availability and resource use.
  - Primary sponsors: National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation

# My Recent Research

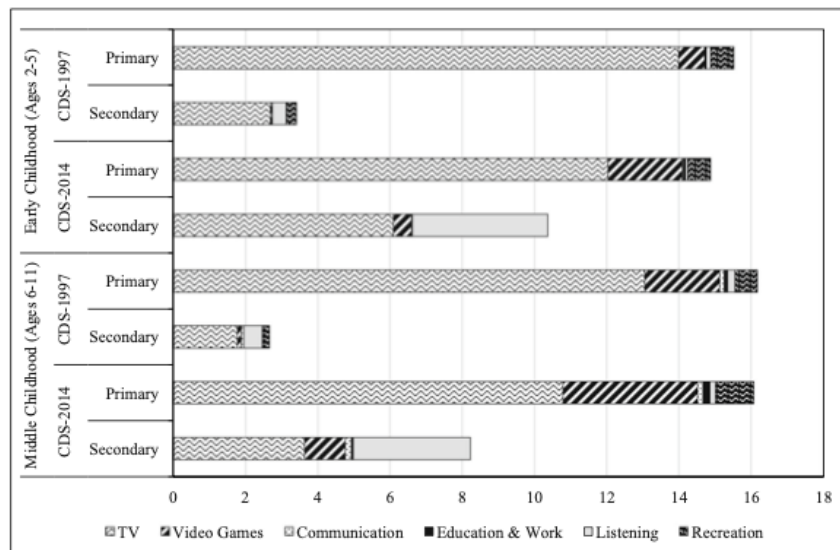
## *Positive Impacts of the Colorado Family Planning Initiative*



**Fig. 2. Magnitude of effect of CFPI.** All estimates from individual-level models for the DiD in high school graduation among Colorado women. Blue lines indicate 95% confidence intervals around point estimates. Source: 2010 Decennial Census and 2009 through 2017 1-year ACS data. Results were approved for release by the U.S. Census Bureau’s Disclosure Review Board, authorization number CBDRB-FY20-ERD002-010.

Stevenson, Amanda J., Katie R. Genadek, Sara Yeatman, Stefanie Mollborn, and Jane A. Menken. 2021. “The Impact of Contraceptive Access on High School Graduation.” *Science Advances* 7(19):cabf6732. Funding: NICHD, Hewlett Foundation, Society for Family Planning.

## *Children, Teens, Young Adults, and Digital Technology Use*



**Fig. 1** Children’s primary and secondary technology time by activity, CDS-1997 and CDS-2014. Source: Panel Study of Income Dynamics Child Development Supplement Time Diaries. *N* = 1329 for early childhood; *N* = 1873 for middle childhood

Goode, Joshua A., Paula Fomby, Stefanie Mollborn, and Aubrey Limburg. 2020. “Children’s Technology Time in Two US Cohorts.” *Child Indicators Research* 13:1107-1132. Funding: NSF Sociology.