

CONTENTS

- EDITORS' NOTES 1
Vonnie C. McLoyd, Constance A. Flanagan
1. Families and Schools in Hard Times 7
Constance A. Flanagan
Economic recessions affect children by conditioning their aspirations, straining parent-child relations, and limiting educational quality.
2. Family Income Loss and Economic Hardship: Antecedents of Adolescents' Problem Behavior 27
Rainer K. Silbereisen, Sabine Walper, Helfried T. Albrecht
Income loss leads to lower family integration, which in turn makes adolescents more sensitive to evaluation by peers. This can result in lower self-esteem and an inclination to act against common rules and norms.
3. Maternal Behavior, Social Support, and Economic Conditions as Predictors of Distress in Children 49
Vonnie C. McLoyd, Leon Wilson
Economic hardship diminishes psychological well-being and the capacity for supportive parenting. Single mothers' coping behavior, psychological functioning, and communications to the child about financial matters and personal problems predict the degree of psychological distress experienced by their children.
4. The Iowa Farm Crisis: Perceptions, Interpretations, and Family Patterns 71
Mary P. Van Hook
Economic changes in the Farm Belt have undermined the security of life on the family farm. Rural adolescents are trying to come to terms with the meaning of the "farm crisis" for their identity and for their future.
5. The Adolescent-to-Adult Transition: Discouragement Among Jobless Black Youth 87
Phillip J. Bowman
Because of chronic joblessness, the adolescent-to-adult transition is a special psycho-social challenge for black youth, with far-reaching developmental implications.

6. The Development of Concepts of Economic and Social Inequality

107

Robert L. Leahy

With increasing age, children explain wealth and poverty by referring to individual differences in work, effort, and intelligence rather than social-structural or political factors. Such explanations of inequality support a belief in a just world where the “losers” are viewed as obtaining their just due.

INDEX

121