

Robert L. Atkins

Title and Address :

Associate Professor
School of Nursing/Department of Childhood Studies
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Employment History

Positions Held

04/2011-ongoing	Associate Professor of Nursing and Childhood Studies, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
07/2010-04/2011	Assistant Professor, School of Nursing and Childhood Studies, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
2004-06/2010	Assistant Professor Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
2000-ongoing	Research Associate Center for Children and Childhood Studies
1999-2004	Assistant Professor/Clinician Educator Temple University
1995-1999	School Nurse, East Camden Middle School, Camden Board of Education

Education

Highest Earned Degree

PhD, 2004, Health Studies, Department of Public Health, *Temple University*, Philadelphia, PA

Other Earned Degrees, Graduate and Undergraduate

Master of Science, 1999, Nursing (child/family), *Rutgers University*, Newark, New Jersey

Bachelor of Science, 1995, Nursing, *University of Pennsylvania*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Bachelor of Arts, 1990, Political science and American civilizations, *Brown University*, Providence, Rhode Island

Research Interests

Description of Research and Scholarly or Creative Objectives

Dr. Atkins research addresses theory and practice for improving the life chances of children and youth living in high-poverty, urban neighborhoods. This interest grows from his experiences in Camden -- one of America's poorest cities -- as a school nurse, the director of a public health initiative, and as the founder of a youth development program (see <http://children.camden.rutgers.edu/STARR/index.htm>). Dr. Atkins' research with nationally representative longitudinal survey data illuminates the effects of urban poverty on child and adolescent development. Dr. Atkins' current work explores four questions about the development of youth living in high-poverty neighborhoods: 1) What social and institutional processes mediate the relationship of high-poverty neighborhoods to the health and well-being of youth living in those neighborhoods? 2) How does stress influence personality development in childhood? 3) How does childhood personality influence the emergence of risky and health-damaging behaviors in adolescence and young adulthood? 4) What do youth in high-poverty neighborhoods do to promote, maintain, or restore their

own health?

Publications

Books

Hart, D., Atkins, R., & Fegley, S. (2003). Personality and development in childhood: A person-centered approach. *Monographs of the Society for Research in Child Development*, 68(1, Serial No. 272).

Textbooks

Atkins, R. (2008). *Getting the Most from Nursing School: A Guide to Becoming a Nurse*. Sudbury, MA: Jones & Bartlett Publishers. <http://www.jbpub.com/catalog/9780763755812/>

Chapters in Books or Monographs

Hart, D., Matsuba, K., & Atkins, R. (2008). The moral and civic effects of learning to serve. In L. Nucci & D Narvaez (Eds.) *Handbook on Moral and Character Education* (pp. 484-499). New York: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Hart, D., **Atkins, R.**, & Donnelly, T. (2006). Community service and moral development. In M. Killen & J.G. Smetana (Eds.) *Handbook of Moral Development. Hillsdale* (pp. 633-653). NJ: Erlbaum.

Hart, D., Atkins, R., & Tursi, N. (2006). Origins and developmental influences on self-esteem. In M. Kernis (Ed.) *Self-esteem: Issues and answers* (pp. 157-162). London: Psychology Press.

Donnelly, T., Matsuba, K., Atkins, R. & Hart, D. (2005). The relationship between spiritual development and civic development. P.L. Benson, E.C. Roehlkepartain, P. Ebstyn, & L.M. Wagener's (Eds.), *Handbook of Spiritual Development in Childhood and Adolescence*,: Sage Publications.

Hart, D., Atkins, R. & Donnelly, T. (2004). James Youniss' contributions to applied developmental science. In C. B. Fisher & R. M. Lerner (Eds.) *Applied developmental science: An encyclopedia of research, policies, And programs*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Atkins, R. & Hart, D. (2004). Moral identity development and school attachment. In D. Lapsley and D. Narvaez (Eds.) (2004). *Morality, Self and Identity: Essays in Honor of Augusto Blasi. Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum*.

Hart, D. & Atkins, R. (2004). Religious participation and the development of moral identity in adolescence. In T. Thorkildsen, J. Manning, & H. Walberg (Eds.) *Nurturing Morality*. New York: Kluwer.

Hart, D., Burock, D., London, B., & Atkins, R. (2003). Prosocial tendencies, antisocial behavior, and moral development. In A. Slater and G. Bremner (Eds.). *An Introduction to Developmental Psychology*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Hart, D., Southerland, N., & Atkins, R. (2003). Community service and adult development. In J. Demick & C. Andreoletti (Eds.) *Handbook of adult development* (pp. 585-597). New York, Plenum.

Articles in Refereed Journals

Hart, D., Marmorstein, N., Atkins, R., & Youniss, J. (under review). Child saturated environments slow verbal development: Neighborhoods with lots of children depress academic achievement.

Hart, D. & **Atkins, R.** (in press). American sixteen- and seventeen-year-olds are ready to vote. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*.

Ayres, C., Atkins, R., & Mahat, G. Social support, acculturation and optimism: The role they play in understanding positive health practices in Asian adolescents. *Research in Nursing and Health* (currently under second revision).

Atkins, R., Sulik, M., & Hart, D. (under review). The more they learn the better they feel: The relationship between neighborhoods, schools, health information and adolescent health.

- Martinez, C., Atkins, R., Sulik, M., & Hart, D. (under review). The association of knowledge and perceptions on sexual debut in adolescents.
- Atkins, R., Sulik, M., & Hart, D. (under review). Adolescents, neighborhoods, and primary care: The association of socio-economic and neighborhood factors on utilization of primary care by adolescents.
- Ayres, C., **Atkins, R.**, & Mahat, G. (2010). Factors related to the performance of health practices among Asian adolescents in the United States. *Asian Nursing Research*, 4, 64-74.[
- Ayres, C., **Atkins, R.**, & Lee, J. (2010). Factors related to health practices: Cervical cancer screening among Filipino women. *Research and Theory for Nursing Practice*. 24, 197-208.[
- Atkins, R.**, Bluebond-Langner, M., Read, N., Pittsley, J., & Hart, D. (2010). Adolescents as health agents and consumers: Results of a pilot study of the health and health-related behaviors of adolescents living in a high-poverty, urban neighborhood. *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*, 25, 382-392.
- Atkins, R. & Matsuba, M.K. (2008). The association of personality and the likelihood of serious unintentional injury during childhood. *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*, 23, 451-459.
- Atkins, R. & Hart, D. (2008). The under-controlled do it first: childhood personality and sexual debut. *Research in Nursing and Health*, 31, 626-639.
- Atkins, R. (2008). The association of childhood personality on risky sexual behaviors during adolescence. *Journal of School Health*, 78, 594-600.
- Hart, D., Atkins, R. & Matsuba, K. (2008). The association of neighborhood poverty with personality change in childhood. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 94, 1048-1061.
- Atkins, R. (2007). The association of personality type in early childhood with violence in adolescence. *Research in Nursing and Health*. 30, 308-319.
- Matsuba, M. K., Hart, D., & Atkins, R. (2007). Psychological and social-structural influences on commitment to volunteering. *Journal of Research in Personality*, 41(4), 889-907.
- Hart, D., Donnelly, T., Youniss, J. & Atkins, R. (2007). High school community service as a predictor of adult voting and volunteering. *American Educational Research Journal*, 44, 107-219.
- Hart, D., Burock, D., London, B., Atkins, R & Bonilla-Santiago, G. (2005). The relation of personality type to salivary cortisol, classroom behavior, and academic achievement. *The European Journal of Personality*, 19, 391-407.
- Hart, D., Atkins, R., & Youniss, J. (2005). Knowledge, youth bulges, and rebellion. *Psychological Science*, 16, 661-662.
- Atkins, R., Hart, D., & Donnelly, T. (2005). The association of childhood personality type with volunteering during adolescence. *Merrill-Palmer Quarterly*, 51, 145-162.
- Hart, D., Atkins, R., Markey, P., & Youniss, J. (2004). Youth bulges in communities: The effect of age structure on adolescent civic knowledge and civic participation. *Psychological Science*, 15, 591-597.
- Atkins, R. & Hart, D. (2003). Neighborhoods, adults, and the development of civic identity in urban youth. *Applied Developmental Science*, 7, 156-165.
- Hart, D. & Atkins, R. (2002). Fostering citizenship in urban youth. *Applied Developmental Science*, 6 227-237.
- Hart, D., Atkins, R., & Ford, D. (1998). Urban America as a context for the development of moral identity in adolescence. *Journal of Social Issues*, 54, 513-530.
- Hart, D., Atkins, R., & Ford, D. (1999). Family influences on the formation of moral identity in adolescence: Longitudinal analyses. *Journal of Moral Education*, 28, 375-386.

Articles in Non-refereed or General Journals

- Hart, D., Atkins, R., & Watson, N. C. (2005). How to start your own youth development micro-program.

SRA Newsletter, Spring, 1.

Works in Progress

Atkins, R., Sulik, M., Hart, D., & Matsuba, M.K. (under review). Adolescents, neighborhoods, and primary care: The association of socio-economic and neighborhood factors on utilization of primary care by adolescents. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved.*

Martinez, C., **Atkins, R.,** Sulik, M., & Hart, D. (under review). The association of knowledge and perceptions on sexual debut in adolescents. *Journal of School Health.*

Atkins, R., & Hart, D., & Sulik, M. (under review). The more they learn the better they feel: The relationship between neighborhoods, schools, health information and adolescent health. *Journal of School Health.*

Hart, D., Marmorstein, N., **Atkins, R.,** & Youniss, J. (under review). Child saturated environments slow verbal development: Neighborhoods with lots of children depress academic achievement. *Child Development.*

Ayres, C., **Atkins, R.,** & Mahat, G. (currently under second revision) Social support, acculturation and optimism: The role they play in understanding positive health practices in Asian adolescents. *Research in Nursing and Health .*

Editorial Activities

Membership on Editorial Boards of Scholarly or Professional Journals

2004-ongoing | Ad hoc reviewer for: *Journal of Adolescence, Journal of Pediatric Nursing, Child Development, Research in Nursing and Health, British Journal of Developmental Psychology*

Honors and Awards

Professional Awards and Honors

2009 Greater Camden Partnership Hometown Hero Award

2009 Camden Star Awards Recipient

2008 Robert Wood Johnson Nurse Faculty Scholars Award

2008 Graduate Teaching Award-College of Nursing

2008 Hurdis Griffith Research Award

2007 Institute for Nursing: Men in Nursing Calendar nominee

2006 Concerned Black Nurses of Newark Outstanding Achievement in Research Award

2006 Philadelphia 76ers Hometown Hero Award

2006 Campbell Soup Foundation: Hometown Heroes Award

2006 Rutgers African-American Alumni Alliance Hall of Fame Inductee

2006 Community Planning and Advocacy Council Anna M. Sample Community Advocacy Award

Funding

Internally-Funded Research and/or Training Grants

2008-2011	Atkins, R. (Principal Investigator) Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholars Award (\$350,000): <i>Adolescents as Health Agents and Consumers: The Knowledge, Behavior, Attitudes, and Experiences of Youth living in High-Poverty Urban Neighborhoods</i> ,
2005-ongoing	Atkins, R. (Principal Investigator) Center for Children and Childhood Studies Associates Award, <i>An Investigation of the Neighborhood Characteristics Associated with Assault and Criminal Violence in the City of Camden, NJ</i> (October, 2005).
2005-ongoing	Atkins, R. (Principal Investigator) Busch Biomedical Award, <i>An Exploration of the Neighborhood Characteristics Associated with Violence in Camden, NJ</i> (July, 2005)
2005-ongoing	Atkins, R. (Principal Investigator) Cornwall Center Research Award, <i>An Investigation of the Association between Neighborhood Stress and the Development of Violent Behavior in Urban Youth</i> (June, 2005)
2005-ongoing	Atkins, R. (Principal Investigator) College of Nursing Office of Research Faculty Award, <i>An Exploratory Investigation of Urban Neighborhoods and Youth Violence</i> (June, 2005)

Service

Contributions to the Advancement of the Academic Profession

2010	March, 2010: National Institute of Health Stage 1 reviewer for the RC4 Community Infrastructure applications
2010	Centers for Disease Control: Special Emphasis Panel Review of DP10-007 Healthy Passages
2009	Centers for Disease Control, CD09-001 (Panel E) - Translating Research to Protect Health through Health Promotion, Prevention, and Preparedness (R18)
2009	National Institute of Health Stage 1 Field Reviewer of Challenge Grants
2007	National Institute of Health R21 Community Based Participatory Research Study Section
2006	National Institute of Health R21 Community Based Participatory Research Study Section

Service to Rutgers University

03/2010-ongoing	Women's Basketball Coach Search Committee
03/2010-ongoing	Men's Basketball Coach Search Committee
03/2010-ongoing	Diversity Cluster Hire Faculty Search Committee--Faculty of Arts and Sciences
06/2009-ongoing	Senator: University Faculty Senate
2009	Member: Biomedical Research Advisory Committee
2009	Member: College of Nursing Dean Search Committee
2008	Biomedical Research Advisory Committee
2008	College of Nursing Dean Search Committee
2007	Camden County 4-H Agent Search Committee

Service to Other Public Bodies

2004-2004 | **HRSA Advanced Education Nursing Program Objective Review Committee** · February 17-20, 2004 Rockville, MD

Publics Served

The Camden STARR Program 1995-Present

- Co-founder and Executive Director
- Community-based, non-profit program providing 120 children living in Camden with opportunity to develop psychosocial resilience at no cost. While interacting with caring, consistent adults, participants play year-round organized soccer, perform community service and take numerous trips outside of Camden for educational, cultural and social development.
- <http://children.camden.rutgers.edu/STARR/>

Healthy Futures for Children and Youth 1995-Present

- Co-founder and Co-director
- Community-based, non-profit program working with children and families to improve health through improving access to primary care services and treatment for sub-acute health problems.

Conference Presentations, Lectures, Demonstrations

Other Presentations, Lectures, Demonstrations (TV, Radio)

Hart, D. & Atkins, R. (2011). Should 16-and17-year olds be able to vote? WHYY--Radio Times

Other Invited Addresses

Atkins, R (2010). Maximizing the Scholar Experience. University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. Philadelphia, PA

Atkins, R (2009). Maximizing the Scholar Experience. University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. Philadelphia, PA

Atkins, R.(2010) Maximizing the Scholar Experience. New Jersey Nursing Initiative Annual Program Meeting. Webinar.

Atkins, R. & Hart, D. (October, 2010). Relatively Deprived: Distressed neighborhoods, youth, and health. Annual Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Board of Trustee Site Visit. Camden, NJ/Philadelphia, PA.

Atkins, R. (2009) Maximizing the Scholar Experience. New Jersey Nursing Initiative Annual Program Meeting. Princeton, NJ.

Atkins, R. (May, 2010). Community Matters: A guide for nurses working in the community. Minority Nurse Leadership Institute. Rutgers University, College of Nursing, Newark, NJ

Keynote or Plenary Addresses

Atkins, R. (October, 2007). Exposure to high-poverty, urban neighborhoods and the health of children. Keynote Speaker. Second Annual Nursing Research Day. College of Saint Elizabeth, Morristown, New Jersey.

Papers, Abstracts, and Lectures

Atkins, R., Ripberger, C., & Hart, D. Youth Micro Programs: A university-community partnership that improves the life chances of youth. 2009 Conference of Urban and Metropolitan Universities. Philadelphia, PA.

Atkins, R., Bluebond-Langner, M., Read, N., Pittsley, J., & Hart, D. (February, 2009) Relatively Deprived:

Collaborating with Adolescents in High-Poverty, Urban Neighborhoods to Understand how they Promote, Maintain and Restore their Health. Paper presented at the Office of Minority Health's Third National Leadership Summit on Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health, Washington, D.C.

Atkins, R. & Hart, D. (November, 2008). Relatively Deprived: Understanding How High-Poverty Urban Neighborhoods Influence the Health and Development of Youth. *Frontiers in Psychology*. Rutgers University-Camden

Atkins, R. (September, 2007) WARNING: Research shows that exposure to high-poverty urban neighborhoods is not good for the health or development of children. *Frontiers in Psychology*. Rutgers University-Camden

Atkins, R. (March, 2008) Adolescent Civic Engagement in High Poverty, Urban Neighborhoods. Symposium at Society for Research on Adolescence. Biennial Meeting, Chicago.

Atkins, R. (March, 2008). Kids Need More Youth Development Program Opportunities: Hear Why You Ought to Provide One and How to Get Started. Roundtable Discussion Symposium at Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meeting, Chicago.

Atkins, R. (March, 2006). Adolescents in Relationships, Institutions, and Societies: Jim Youniss' Theoretical Legacy. Chair of Paper Symposium. Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meeting, 2006.

Atkins, R. & Hart, D. (June, 2005). Neighborhoods and Child Development. Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies Annual Conference: Health in the Newark Metropolitan Area: Being Well in the Midst of Opportunities & Challenges.

Atkins, R., Ripberger, C., & Hart, D. (October, 2009) Youth Micro Programs: A university-community partnership that improves the life chances of youth. 2009 Conference of Urban and Metropolitan Universities. Philadelphia, PA.

Atkins, R. & Hart, D. (April, 2005). The Good, the Bad and the Sad: The Association of Personality, Stress and Aggression in Youth. Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies Faculty Seminars.

Atkins, R. (October, 2004). Anger Management: Theories and implications for practice. Rutgers College of Nursing School Nurse Conference.