RESEARCH PROGRAM
Evaluating the Role of Schools in Adolescent Mental Health Service Provision

Studies estimate that less than one-third of US children and adolescents with an emotional or behavioral disorder receive mental health services. Among those who do receive services, schools are a primary provider and frequently provide referrals to community mental health services. However, there is a great deal of variability in mental health resources in schools and relatively little is known about the mechanisms by which schools are involved in identifying adolescents with emotional and behavioral disorders and providing referrals for mental health services.

This research program investigates the role of schools in facilitating mental health service provision for youth with emotional and behavioral disorders, with the ultimate goals of increasing access to mental health services for students who need it most, and decreasing disparities in service access. First, a series of studies are designed to identify specific school mental health resources and policies that are associated with mental health service use by students with different emotional and behavioral disorders. Results have implications for school-wide policy and practice related to the allocation of mental health resources. A second series of studies investigate the role of teachers in identifying signs of emotional distress among their students and the process by which teachers determine whether to make referrals for mental health services. Third, Dr. Green is working with schools to develop a comprehensive assessment that is designed to improve decision-making around mental health service provision and resource allocation. These studies are funded by a career development grant to Dr. Green from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH).

Biographical Sketch

Jennifer Greif Green, PhD is an Assistant Professor at Boston University's School of Education in the Special Education Program. She is a clinical psychologist who completed her doctoral training at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She also completed training in child and adolescent mental health at Yale School of Medicine and in the Department of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School. In addition to her work on school mental health service provision, Dr. Green is involved in research on the assessment of bullying and school violence (information on this work can be found at www.bu.edu/bullying). More information about Dr. Green’s work and publications can be solicited directly from Dr. Green at jggreen@bu.edu.