

Because perceiving internal and external barriers to career decision-making has been shown to be a component of career indecision (Shimizu, Vondracek, Schulenberg, & Hostetler, 1988), and because perceiving parental support might facilitate career certainty (McWhirter, 1997), the present study explored the extent to which perceived occupational barriers and perceived parental support were predictive of both career certainty and career indecision in a sample of African American adolescents. We hypothesized that perceived occupational barriers would be negatively predictive of career certainty and positively predictive of career indecision. We also hypothesized that perceived parental support would be positively predictive of career certainty and negatively predictive of career indecision.

**METHOD**

**Participants and Procedures**

Here the authors present their directional hypotheses after the literature review and a restatement of their overall study purpose statement.

The participants were 151 African American upper level high school students (88 girls and 63 boys) who were matriculating in a large urban high school in the

**Elements present:**

1. These hypotheses are examples of the reserachers wanting to relate independent variables to dependent variables.
2. The hypothesized predictions are based on theories and past reserach in the literature.
3. The authors only wrote hypotheses and did not include redundant research questions.
4. The authors used directional hypotheses that predict relationships between variables AND the directions of the relationships.
5. The independent variables (occupational barriers and parental support) and dependent variables (career certainty and career indecision) represent attitudes and not demographic variables.
6. The authors used the same order for the variables in the hypotheses.

**Elements missing:**

1. The authors could have also posed descriptive reserach questions for each major variable.

*Instruments*

*Demographic questionnaire.* A short demographic questionnaire was administered to participants requesting information such as their age, race or ethnicity, gender, and educational level.