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Research Report #4  
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Pratt, M. W., Hunsberger, B., Pancer, S. M., & Alisat, S. (2003). A longitudinal analysis of personal values socialization: Correlates of a moral self-ideal in late adolescence. *Social Development, 12*(4), 563-585.

1. **Need.** Little research on the development of value commitments. Present study aims to plug that gap.
2. **Purpose.** To study the effects of several family and social factors in the development of values in late adolescents. Examined community involvement and parenting styles.
3. **Sample.** Initial survey was 896 high school students in 16 schools in Ontario, Canada. Participation voluntary. At two year follow-up, 336 participated; more likely to be female and have high GPAs.
4. **Methods.** "Moral" adolescents defined as: honest, having integrity, kind, just, and good citizen (determined by pilot study and previous study using same scale). Participants completed two initial surveys several days apart: demographics and family information and one for religious, value, and community involvement. Two years later, surveys repeated.
5. **Results.** Community involvement correlated to higher scores on the moral index initially but not at follow-up. Correlation shown for males only between parenting style and moral index. Using regression analysis, parental and peer emphasis on moral values were seen to correlate to moral index for males.
6. **Conclusions.** Community involvement early on possible predictor of moral values later. Values of adolescent males affected by the emphasis of parents and peers on those morals, not just on parenting style.
7. **Limitations.** Large attrition from initial survey to follow-up; students had already graduated from high school at the time of the follow-up. Previous studies found greater correlation with parenting styles. Surveys were self-reported.
8. **Implications.** Further research on different possible contributing factors to moral index (e.g. religious instruction).