

Description of Research	<p>Dr. Taussig is a clinical psychologist and the Director of the Fostering Healthy Futures (FHF) Program, a joint clinical research program of the Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect and the University of Denver's School of Social Work.</p> <p>Dr. Taussig's clinical research focuses on the development of effective prevention programming for children and adolescents who have experienced significant adversity. She conducted two NIMH-funded randomized controlled trials of FHF, a preventive intervention for maltreated youth in foster care. FHF has been named an evidence-based program, and is currently being implemented through community-based agencies. Ongoing research, funded by the Department of Justice, is examining the long-term outcomes (i.e., 10 years post-baseline) of the FHF program and an adapted version of FHF for teenagers (FHF-Teen) is being tested in a randomized controlled trial funded by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation.</p> <p>FHF and FHF-T use a positive youth development framework that consists of mentoring and skills training to augment youth's prosocial development and outcomes (e.g. mental health functioning, academic functioning, social functioning, quality of life) and reduce problem behaviors (e.g. substance use, delinquent behavior, risky sexual activity, suicidality).</p> <p>Dr. Taussig's goal is to continue to work collaboratively with faculty and students to identify innovative and efficacious prevention and intervention strategies that will reduce the deleterious outcomes associated with exposure to extreme adversity and increase youth's chances for a healthy trajectory through adolescence and adulthood.</p> <p>The Fostering Healthy Futures project offers both research and clinical opportunities for postdoctoral fellows.</p>
Methodology	Treatment; Systems, Epidemiology and Outcomes
Clinical and special developmental populations	Adolescents; Child; Child Abuse; Foster Care
Contact email	heather.taussig@du.edu
Faculty/Lab Website	Taussig DU website
Mentor since	11/12/2008
Institution	University of Denver/ University of Colorado School of Medicine