



Robert L. Atkins

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New Jersey Health Initiatives--Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Associate Professor-Nursing/Childhood Studies
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[CV](#)

Research Interests

Description of Research and Scholarly or Creative Objectives

Robert (Bob) Atkins has spent his adulthood trying to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable children and families living in distressed, urban neighborhoods through service, scholarship, and education.

An Associate Professor at Rutgers University, Bob currently serves the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as National Program Director of its New Jersey Health Initiatives (NJHI) program. NJHI is the Foundation's signature statewide grantmaking program.

Bob has a Bachelor's of Arts in Political Science and American Civilizations from Brown University and Bachelor's of Science in Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania. Fresh out of nursing school, Bob moved to the city of Camden where he worked as a school nurse at East Camden Middle School and co-founded the Camden STARR Program, a non-profit youth development program dedicated to improving the life chances of youth living in Camden. Bob's work in Camden motivated him to complete a PhD in the Department of Public Health at Temple University to better understand the factors that influence the health of children living in distressed environments.

Through his scholarly work and practice Bob has become a leader in shaping the policy and practice that influences the health and well-being of vulnerable populations living in high, poverty neighborhoods. Dr. Atkins has authored and co-authored in journals ranging from *Research in Nursing and Health* to *Psychological Science* to the *Journal of Public Health Dentistry*, discussed his practice and research locally and nationally, and has been honored for his teaching and service.

Education

Highest Earned Degree

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

Other Earned Degrees

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

Certificates and Licenses Held

RN

Employment History

Positions Held

2013-ongoing: Director of New Jersey Health Initiatives (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)

2011-2013: Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, School of Nursing, Rutgers University-Camden

2012-2013: Director of School Nurse Certification Program, Rutgers University-Camden

2011-2012: Director of the Center for Children and Childhood Studies, Rutgers University-Camden

2011-ongoing: Associate Professor of Nursing and Childhood Studies, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

2010-2011: Assistant Professor, School of Nursing and Childhood Studies, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

2004-2010: 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

1999-1999: Adolescent Health Nurse Practitioner, Covenant House, Atlantic City, NJ

1998-1999: Homeless Outreach Nurse, Project HOPE, Camden, NJ

1995-1999: School Nurse, East Camden Middle School, Camden Board of Education

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. (2013). Civic engagement and child and adolescent well-being. In I. Ben-Arieh, F. Frones, E. Casas, J. Korbin (Eds.), *Handbook of Child Well-Being*, DOI 10.1007/978-90-481-9063-8_33, # Springer Science + Business Media Dordrecht 2013.

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

Atkins, R. (2017). Four lessons learned from school nurses in New Jersey about Building a Culture of Health. NASN School Nurse. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1942602X17737797>

Atkins, R. L., Estrada, E. J. J., Hagerman, D., Ellis, M. R., Wilson, R., & Maguire, P. (2016). Innovations to Support Frontline Health Care Workers Aspiring to Become Baccalaureate-Prepared Nurses. *Nursing Education Perspectives*, 37(6), 347-348.

Fessele, K. L., Hayat, M. J., Mayer, D. K., & Atkins, R. L. (2016). Factors associated with unplanned hospitalizations among patients with nonmetastatic colorectal cancers intended for treatment in the ambulatory setting. *Nursing research*, 65(1), 24.

Ayres, C., Mahat, G., & Atkins, R. (2013). Testing theoretical relationships: Factors influencing positive health practices (PHP) in Filipino College Students. *Journal of American College Health*, 61, 88-94.

Fessele, K. & Atkins, R. (2012). Unplanned Hospitalizations for Adverse Events During Outpatient Chemotherapy: Conceptual and Methodological Delineation During Analysis of a Large, Oncology-Focused Administrative Dataset. *Oncology Nursing Forum*, 39 (6), E543.

Atkins, R., Sulik, M., & Hart, D. (2012). The association of individual characteristics and neighborhood poverty on the dental care of American adolescents. *Journal of Public Health Dentistry*. DOI: 10.1111/j.1752-7325.2012.00340.x

Atkins, R., Sulik, M., Hart, D., Ayres, C., & Read, N. (2012). The effects of school poverty on adolescents' sexual health knowledge. *Research in Nursing and Health*, 35, 231-241.

Hart, D. & **Atkins, R.** (2011). American sixteen- and seventeen-year-olds are ready to vote. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 633, 201-222.

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.

Honors and Awards

Professional Awards and Honors

- 2013 Fellow American Academy of Nursing
- 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

Papers, Abstracts, and Lectures

Other Presentations, Lectures, Demonstrations

- Atkins, R., Bland, R., Griffith, M., McCahey, A. (October, 2017). Caucus: New Jersey-- Building a Culture of Health: Communities Move to Action. Interview. Aired on October 7, 2017 <http://watch.njtvonline.org/video/3005403057/>
- Comcast Newsmakers with Jill Horner: "Next Generation Community Leaders." Aired 12/12/16 <http://comcastnewsmakers.com/2016/12/08/nj161207-8>
- New Beginnings/Princeton TV: "Unemployed military veterans and ACA enrollment project." Aired February 16, 2016: https://archive.org/details/New_Beginnings_2.16
- New Beginnings/Princeton TV: "New Paths to Professional Nursing." Aired March, 16, 2016 <https://vimeo.com/160603129>
- One-on-One with Steve Aduato: "Building a Culture of Health in New Jersey." Interview. Aired on July 24, 2015 http://bit.ly/One-on-One1740_Atkins
- NJTV news "The State of NJ's Health: Overcoming Childhood Trauma." Expert panelist. Aired on September 17, 2014. <http://www.njtvonline.org/programs/the-state-of-njs-health/>
- Know it All ABCs of Education-Blog Talk Radio: Poverty and Student Health Needs with Dr. Robert Atkins

TEDMED Panel (online): TEDMED/Great Challenges Program: Addressing the Impact of Poverty on Health

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

Invited Addresses

Atkins, R. & Hart, D. (February, 2017). The Challenges and Opportunities of Child-Density in the city of Camden. Eastern Sociological Society--Regional Spotlight Session: Camden: Crisis and Recovery Panel. Philadelphia, PA.

Atkins, R. & Hagerman, D. (October, 2015). Moving Communities to a Better State of Health. Brown Bag Seminar. Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research. Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

Atkins, R. (2014). Maximizing your Doctoral Education Experience. Emerging Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing Conference, Thomas Jefferson University School of Nursing. Philadelphia, PA

Atkins, R. & Hart, D. (2013). Child-dense neighborhoods, poverty, and youth development. Association of Educational Research (San Francisco, CA) Presidential Session: Research on Poverty and Education: An Advocacy Framework.

Atkins, R. (2012). Latest developments in the field of Young Men at Risk. New Jersey Health Initiative, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Young Men at Risk Grantee Meeting

Atkins, R. (2012). Maximizing the Scholar Experience. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA

Atkins, R. (2012). Anger Management. The Many Facets of School Nursing: NJSSNA Celebrating 75 Years.

Atkins, R. (2011). Maximizing the Scholar Experience. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA

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

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

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

Keynote or Plenary Addresses

Atkins, R. (September, 2017). Believe in a Healthy Newark: A Community Moving to Action. Keynote Speaker Building a Culture of Health in Newark Conference. Newark, NJ

Atkins, R. (October, 2016). Moving Communities to a Better State of Health. Keynote Speaker. [Meadowlark - Annual Recognition Event, Lyndhurst, NJ.](#)

Atkins, R. (November, 2016). Moving Communities to a Better State of Health. Keynote Speaker. North Jersey Health Collaborate First Annual All Partner and 3rd Birthday Celebration. Morristown, NJ

Atkins, R. & Colalillo, S. (October, 2016). Moving Communities to a Better State of Health. Keynote Speaker. 2016 Creating Healthy Communities. Pittsburgh, PA.

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., Lewis, A., Haider, R. (June, 2015). Building a Culture of Health: One Community at a Time. Sustainability Summit. The College of New Jersey, Trenton, NJ.

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.

Funding

Externally-Funded Research and/or Training Grants

2016-ongoing: (Grant Amount: \$1,300,000) Atkins, R. (Principal Investigator) Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Jersey Health Initiatives: Technical Assistance and Direction for New Jersey Health Initiatives

2015-2016: (Grant Amount: \$1,300,000) Atkins, R. (Principal Investigator) Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Jersey Health Initiatives: Technical Assistance and Direction for New Jersey Health Initiatives

2014-2015: (Grant Amount: \$1,290,000) Atkins, R. (Principal Investigator) Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Jersey Health Initiative Award: Technical Assistance and Direction for New Jersey Health Initiatives

2013-2014: (Grant Amount: \$1,290,000) Atkins, R. (Principal Investigator) Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Jersey Health Initiative Award: Technical Assistance and Direction for New Jersey Health Initiatives

2008-2011: (Grant Amount: \$350,000) Atkins, R. (Principal Investigator) Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholars Award: *Adolescents as Health Agents and Consumers: The Knowledge, Behavior, Attitudes, and Experiences of Youth living in High-Poverty Urban Neighborhoods*

Internally-Funded Research and/or Training Grants

2005-ongoing: Atkins, R. (Principal Investigator) Center for Children and Childhood Studies Associates Award, *An Investigation of the Neighborhood Characteristics Associated with Assault and Criminal Violence in the City of Camden, NJ* (October, 2005).

2005-ongoing: Atkins, R. (Principal Investigator) Busch Biomedical Award, *An Exploration of the Neighborhood Characteristics Associated with Violence in Camden, NJ* (July, 2005)

2005-ongoing: Atkins, R. (Principal Investigator) Cornwall Center Research Award, *An Investigation of the Association between Neighborhood Stress and the Development of Violent Behavior in Urban Youth* (June, 2005)

2005-ongoing: Atkins, R. (Principal Investigator) College of Nursing Office of Research Faculty Award, *An Exploratory Investigation of Urban Neighborhoods and Youth Violence* (June, 2005)

Community Service

Contributions to the Advancement of the Academic Profession

02/2014: 2014 New Jersey Nursing Students 62nd Annual Convention--Invited Speaker "Getting the most from nursing school."

06/2013-06/2013: National Academy of Sciences: Participant in the Board on Children, Youth, and Families' (BCYF) planning meeting, *Place-Based Initiatives for Healthy Adolescent Development*.

2012-05/2012: NIH Reviewer, ZRG1 BBBP-J 50 Special Emphasis Panel

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 Other Public Bodies

07/2012-06/2013: Cathedral Kitchen Board of Trustees

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

Service to Rutgers University

06/2012-06/2013: School of Nursing Promotion and Tenure Committee, Chair

06/2012-09/2012: School of Nursing Faculty Search for School Nurse Certification Program Coordinator, Chair

09/2012-ongoing: Chancellor's Administrative Council

09/2012-ongoing: Campus Strategic Planning Committee

09/2011-ongoing: School of Nursing Faculty Search Committee, Chair

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

06/2009-05/2011: 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