**Title:** Positive youth development: Adopting a new perspective for understanding the developmental outcomes associated with sport participation among youth with disabilities

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**Background:** Youth with disabilities (YWD) can gain numerous benefits from participating in sport. Nevertheless, YWD have limited opportunities to participate in sport and when they do, they often perceive their experiences as negative. Further research is needed to better understand the factors that influence sport experiences for YWD, to help inform sport delivered that promotes positive experiences and outcomes. A theoretical framework that may enhance our understanding of these factors is Positive Youth Development (PYD). PYD is widely used to understand the positive and negative developmental outcomes associated with youth sport participation, however relatively limited research exists among YWD.

**Purpose:** Examine the sport experiences of YWD through a PYD lens to understand the positive and negative developmental outcomes associated with sport participation and identify factors that influence these outcomes.

**Method:** Participants include youth with a physical disability aged 14-21 who are enrolled in a sport program at the time of recruitment. Data collection consists of semi-structured telephone or video-chat interviews complemented by participant generated concept-maps. Interview questions are designed to gain an in-depth understanding of participants’ positive and negative sport experiences, and the social-contextual factors that are influential. Data will be transcribed verbatim and transcripts will undergo deductive qualitative thematic analysis.

**Results:** Data collection and analysis is currently in progress.

**Study Implications:** This project will shed light on the positive and negative developmental outcomes YWD acquire through sport, and the factors contributing to these outcomes. Furthermore, it may provide insight regarding the utility of sport as a developmental context to promote PYD among YWD and could help inform the design of sport programs that foster positive outcomes for YWD.