

Early Experience & Later Development

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Major Issues

- Is it possible to overcome devastating circumstances experienced during infancy?
- Can we predict developmental outcomes given status during infancy?

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Effects of Parent-Child Separations

- Temporary Separations
- Extended Separations
 - Children of the Creche
 - Romanian Orphans
 - Well-run orphanages
- Isolated Children
 - Czech twins
 - Genie

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Extended Separations

✓ Children of the Creche (Dennis)

1. Lower intellectual Development
2. Effects depend on subsequent environment
 - a. Early adoption
 - b. later adoption
 - c. Continued institutionalization
 - Gender effects

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Romanian Orphans (Chisolm, 1998)

Early adoptees (<4 mos)

Late adoptees (> 8 mos)

Canadian born nonadoptees

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Romanian Orphans (Chisolm, 1998)

Tested at age 4 1/2

Procedure

Parent interview

Separation-reunion

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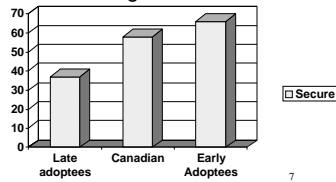
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Romanian Orphans (Chisholm, 1998)

✓ Romanian orphans

- A. Adopted early (<4 mo) vs late (>8 mo)
- Differences in attachment (in strange situation)
 - Late: Lower IQ scores

But, are differences due to age or time in institution?



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Well-staffed Orphanages

- Children raised until 2 yrs
- Environment
 - Positives: Well-fed, staff well-trained, toys, etc
 - Negatives: Staff-turnover, staff-scheduling
- Study
 - Compare return to home after 2, adopted (2-8), remain in institution

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Well-staffed Orphanages

- Positive effects for leaving but depended on where.
 - Adopted had higher IQ and Reading than those returned to biological parents
 - Adopted - mutual attachments regardless of age at adoption
 - Biological returnees - attachment decreases with age of return

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Isolated Children

- Czech Twins
 - Discovered at 6 yrs - malnourished, limited speech, fearful, etc
 - Removed from home to children's home
 - Placed with younger children
 - Well-fed and cared for
 - Result: Overtime return to normal level of intelligence and performance

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Isolated Children

- Genie
 - Found at 13
 - Never reached normal levels
 - Low level of language
 - Did form attachments but always needed care
- Why the difference between the Czech boys and Genie?

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Children of Violence Garbarino & Kostelny, 1996

- ◆ Palestinian Intifada
 - ◆ Witness violence
 - ◆ Lose family members
 - ◆ Experience injury
 - ◆ Family members arrested

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Sample

- ◆150 children, 2 parents
- ◆Young (6 - 9 yrs)/old (12 - 15 yrs)
- ◆Male/female
- ◆Low/Hi violence

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Measures

- ◆Demographics
- ◆Behavior checklist
- ◆Violence ?
- ◆Conflicts scale
- ◆Parenting stress index

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Risk Factors (0 - 9)

- ◆Violence risk
- ◆Family risk
 - ◆ Violence toward child
 - ◆ Maternal depression
 - ◆ Maternal sense of incompetence

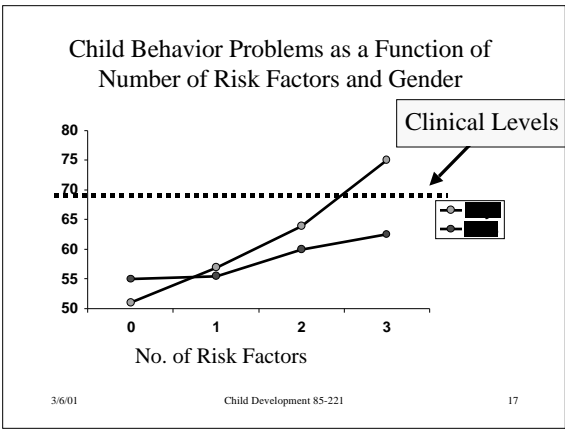
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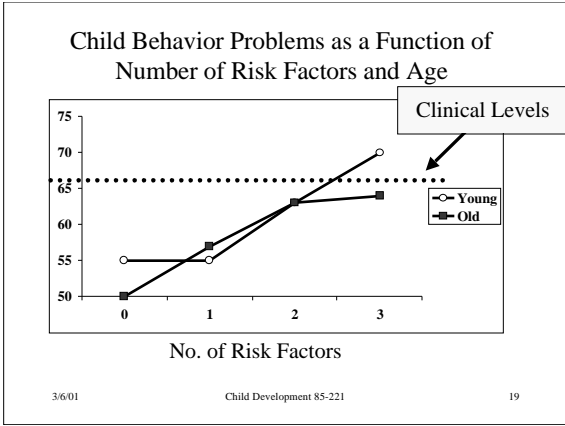
Political Violence
 (Garbarino & Kostelny, 1996)
 The relationship of Gender & Risk factors to behavioral outcomes

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Political Violence
 (Garbarino & Kostelny, 1996)
 Relationship of Age & Risk factors to behavioral outcomes

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Vulnerability and Resilience

- Risk Factor: personal characteristics or environmental circumstances that increase the likelihood of negative outcomes.

- Resilience: The ability to recover quickly from adverse effects of early experience or persevere in stressful situations

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Sources of Risk & Protective Factors

- Characteristics of the family (see p. 273)
 - < 4 children
 - sibling spacing
 - alternate caregivers
- ✓ Characteristics of the community
 - Poverty
 - Social support networks
 - School
- Characteristics of the child
 - Temperament
 - Intelligence

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TRANSACTIONAL MODELS OF DEVELOPMENT

Child characteristics INTERACT with characteristics of the environment

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Why do some children have long term negative consequences?

Intifada Research

Children with full range of Intifada-related risk fall below clinical level IF

- The risks are in context of a functional family system

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In-Class Assignment

1. Give 2 reasons why some children and not others have long term effects from being in orphanages.
2. A parent asks you how they should choose a daycare for their 6 month old. What 2 pieces of advice (or questions they should ask the daycare) would you give ?

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