



Urban Child Symposium

Panel One: The Juvenile and His/Her Needs

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Adolescent Stage of Development

- Challenge:
Identity versus
Role Diffusion
- Strengths: Fidelity
and Devotion

Erik Erikson
(1902-1994)





Adolescence: The Challenge

“She woke me up daily, I don’t need no Starbuck”

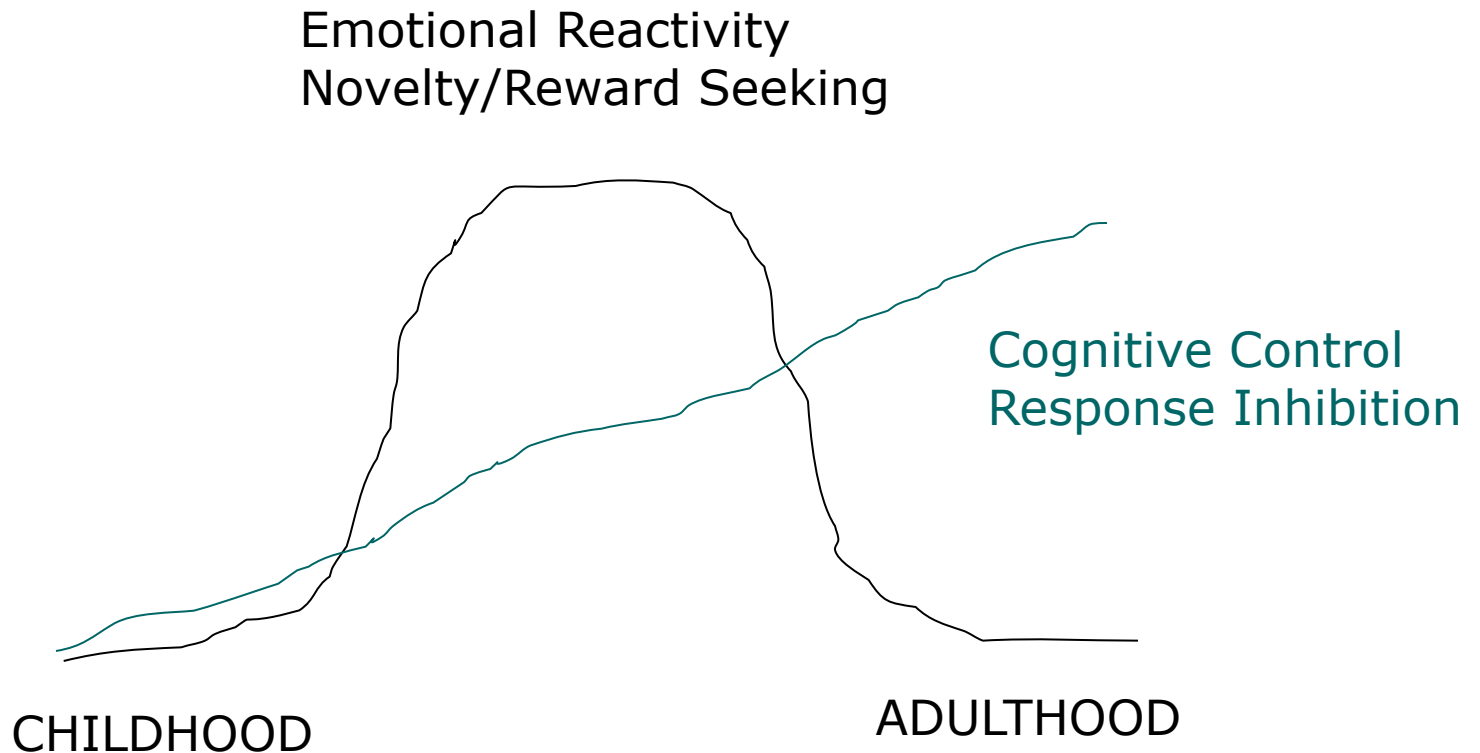
“I was a ‘playa’ when I was little but I’m ‘bigga’”

“I want the money, money and the cars, cars and clothes”

“Eenie, meenie, miney, mo. Catch a bad chick by the toe”

-Justin Bieber

Adolescent Brain Development (Brenhouse & Andersen 2011)





Older Adolescents: Hi Risk Behaviors

15 – 24 yrs old

- Accidents > Homicides > Suicides are leading causes of death
- Half of newly acquired Sexually Transmitted Diseases occur in these youth
- Highest risk of car accidents is for drivers 16 – 19 years old
- 24% of high school students report at least one binge drinking episode in past month

www.cdc.gov



Experience and Learning

- Experience needed to connect behaviors with consequence & identify risky situations
- Identify factors that can be modified in the environment that reduce risk (e.g. no driving late at night or with multiple passengers)

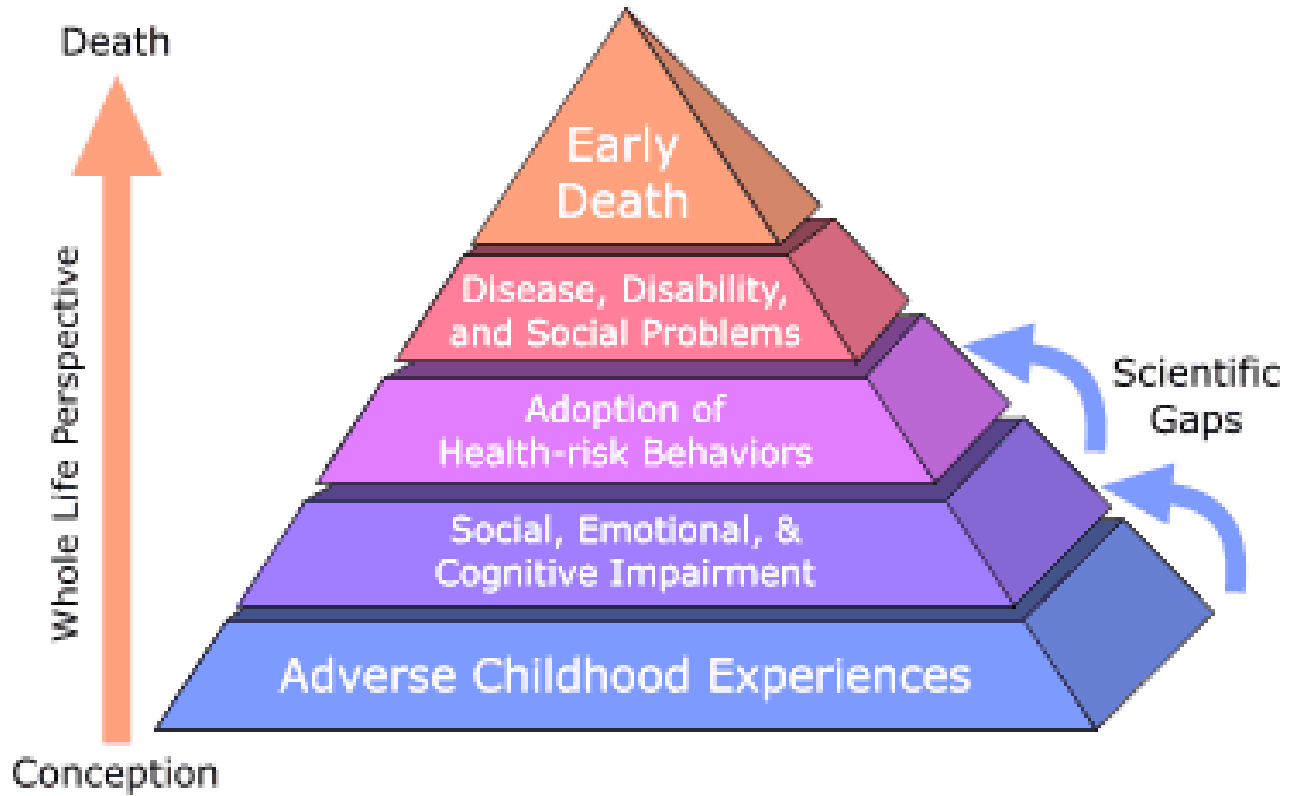
Adverse Childhood Experience Study (*Felitti et al, 1998*)

The ACE Study: 17,000 adults who were undergoing a standardized physical examination

- Emotional Abuse 10.6 %
- Physical Abuse 28.3 %
- Sexual Abuse 20.7 %
- Emotional Neglect 14.8 %
- Physical Neglect 9.9 %

<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/ace/prevalence.htm>

ACE





Mental illness & Age of Onset

Median Age of Onset (years old)

- Anxiety Disorder: 11
- Impulse Control Disorder: 11
- Substance Abuse Disorder: 20
- Mood Disorder: 30

National Comorbidity Survey Replication (Kessler et al 2005)



Summary

- Hi risk/sensation seeking behaviors is an important feature of adolescent development
- Interventions that may improve adolescent outcomes include mental health screening/trauma assessment
- Environmental structure to graduate independence allows for experience/learning to improve judgment