

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POPULATION

COURTS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
AND
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POPULATION

- ***HOW DOES EARLY CHILDHOOD TRAUMA
CAUSE LATER PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL
DISEASE?***
 - Disturbance of fundamental neurodevelopment
 - Dysregulation of the capacity to calm
 - Disturbance of capacity for attachment
 - Greatly increased propensity for drugs and alcohol

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POPULATION

- ***ATTEMPTS TO SELF-REGULATE AND CALM***
 - DRUGS/ALCOHOL/TOBACCO
- ***ATTEMPTS TO COMPENSATE FOR POOR ATTACHMENT CAPACITY***
- ***ATTEMPTS TO SURVIVE WITHOUT DEPENDABLE LIFE SKILLS***

HOW IS DELINQUENCY RELATED TO EARLY CHILDHOOD ABUSE AND NEGLECT?

- Early neurodevelopment is altered, leaving a child without the fundamental brain capacity for:
 - Sitting quietly and learning
 - Controlling aggressive impulses
 - Making friends and trusting adults
 - Resisting drugs and alcohol

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POPULATION

PRIMARY EFFECTS OF MALTREATMENT

- Impulsivity
- Dysregulation of Arousal
- Dysregulated Moods—Labile and Changeable
- Dysregulated Behavior—Explosive and Aggressive
- Poor Interpersonal Relations—Impaired Attachments and Empathy
- Impaired “executive function”

CORE TRAITS OF DELINQUENCY

- Impulsivity
- Dysregulation of Arousal
- Dysregulated Moods—Labile and Changeable
- Dysregulated Behavior—Explosive and Aggressive
- Poor Interpersonal Relations—Impaired Attachments and Empathy
- Impaired “executive function”

HOW ARE THESE CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS MANAGED ?

- High rates of mis-diagnosis
- Strong dependence on medication and over-medication
- Over dependence on medical model
- Confinement in hospitals, residential treatment programs, detention and incarceration

HOW IS THE BRAIN REPAIRED AND THESE FUNCTIONAL IMPAIRMENTS TREATED?

TRAUMA THERAPIES

- Re-building self-regulation for early childhood maltreatment where there are no memories
- Reducing and containing traumatic memories
- Occupational therapy
- Exercise, music, animals

SKILL BUILDING FOR COMPETENCE

- Education
- Pre-vocational and vocational
- Life management skills
- Social and interpersonal skills

RECOMMENDATIONS—*PRIMARY PREVENTION OF MALTREATMENT*

- Family and parent supports
- Public education about the effects of abuse
- High school classes on early child development
- Reduce social tolerance for abuse
- Public education about parenting skills

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DELINQUENT POPULATION

- Applied trauma treatments
- Functional / vocational skills
- Large motor activity—recreation, sports
- Multisensory activities—art, music, yoga, movement
- Reduction of psychotropics
- Discharge planning and post-release supports
- Minimizing of coercive interventions