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Adolescence: A Field of Study; A Stage of Life



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Population and Family Health Sciences



Prepared for
Adolescent Health and Development

A Definition of Terms

Young People

10

24



A Definition of Terms



Young People

10

24

Youth



15

24

Terms according to WHO



Young People

10

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Youth

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24

Adolescence

10

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Adolescence is a term
coined by G. Stanley Hall
in 1904.

Why?



Why? Why Then?



- ◆ Rousseau and a shift in the philosophy of childhood.
- ◆ Industrial Revolution
- ◆ Mandatory education
- ◆ Age segregation and the evolution of a “*youth culture*”

Today's Youth: A generation of firsts



- ◆ The first to understand terrorism as a domestic issue;
- ◆ The first to fully compete in a global economy;
- ◆ The first to experience instantaneous communication with the world;
- ◆ The first to grow up with the majority living a portion of childhood in a single parent household;
- ◆ The first to live their entire lives in the shadow of AIDS;
- ◆ The first to witness and experience the translocation of an entire American city.

In 1990 we believed gender specific behaviors were predominantly the result of social learning...



...today we know that neuroendocrine differences have a significant impact on gender differences related to processing, learning and behavior.



In 1990 we had a risk or deficit model as the predominant framework for youth programs...

...today we have a *positive youth development* model that incorporates protective as well as risk factors.



In 1990 we had an invariate,
stage-based conceptualization
of adolescent development...

...today we have an ecological
model that grounds
development within the
contexts of a young person's
life.



In 1990 we believed that parental influence diminished as peer influence increased in adolescence...

...today, we understand that parents are as critical during adolescence as they were in childhood, even as peer influence increases.

Adolescence is an age of opportunity



- ◆ *Pubertal development* brings new capacities, a new body image and a new sense of self;



- ◆ *Cognitive development* brings with it the capacity to look at a problem from multiple perspectives and to explore competing options to its solution;

Adolescence is an age of opportunity

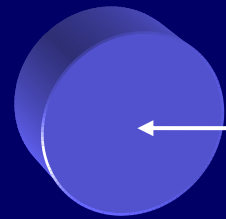


- ◆ *Social development* brings with it a broader set of influences than just family: peers, teachers, religious leaders;
- ◆ *Moral development* brings with it idealism, social engagement, and volunteerism.

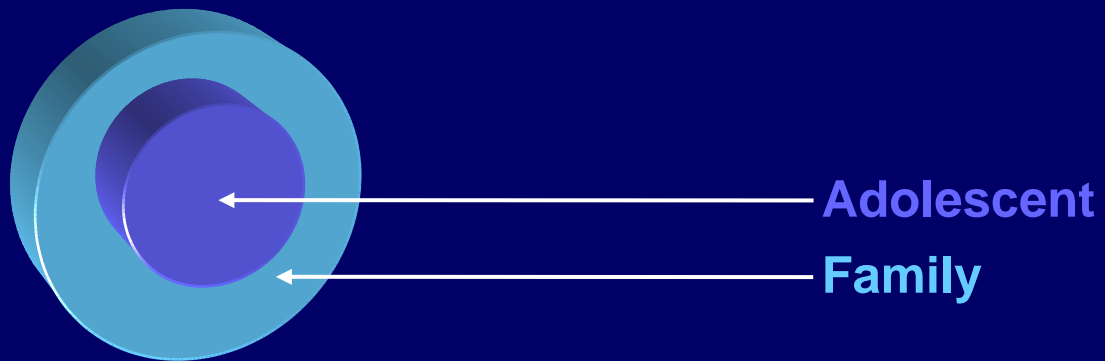
To tap the potential as well as to address the problems of youth, we need to view the adolescent nested in a wide set of social contexts and we need to understand how they influence both health and morbidity.

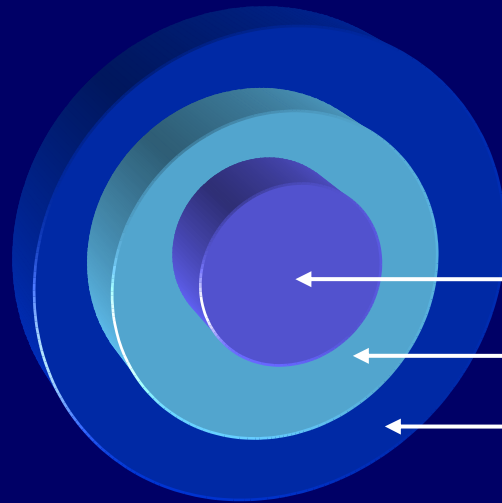


**An Ecological Model of
Adolescent Health &
Development**



Adolescent

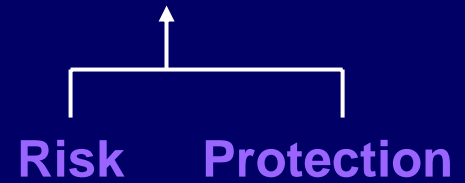




Adolescent

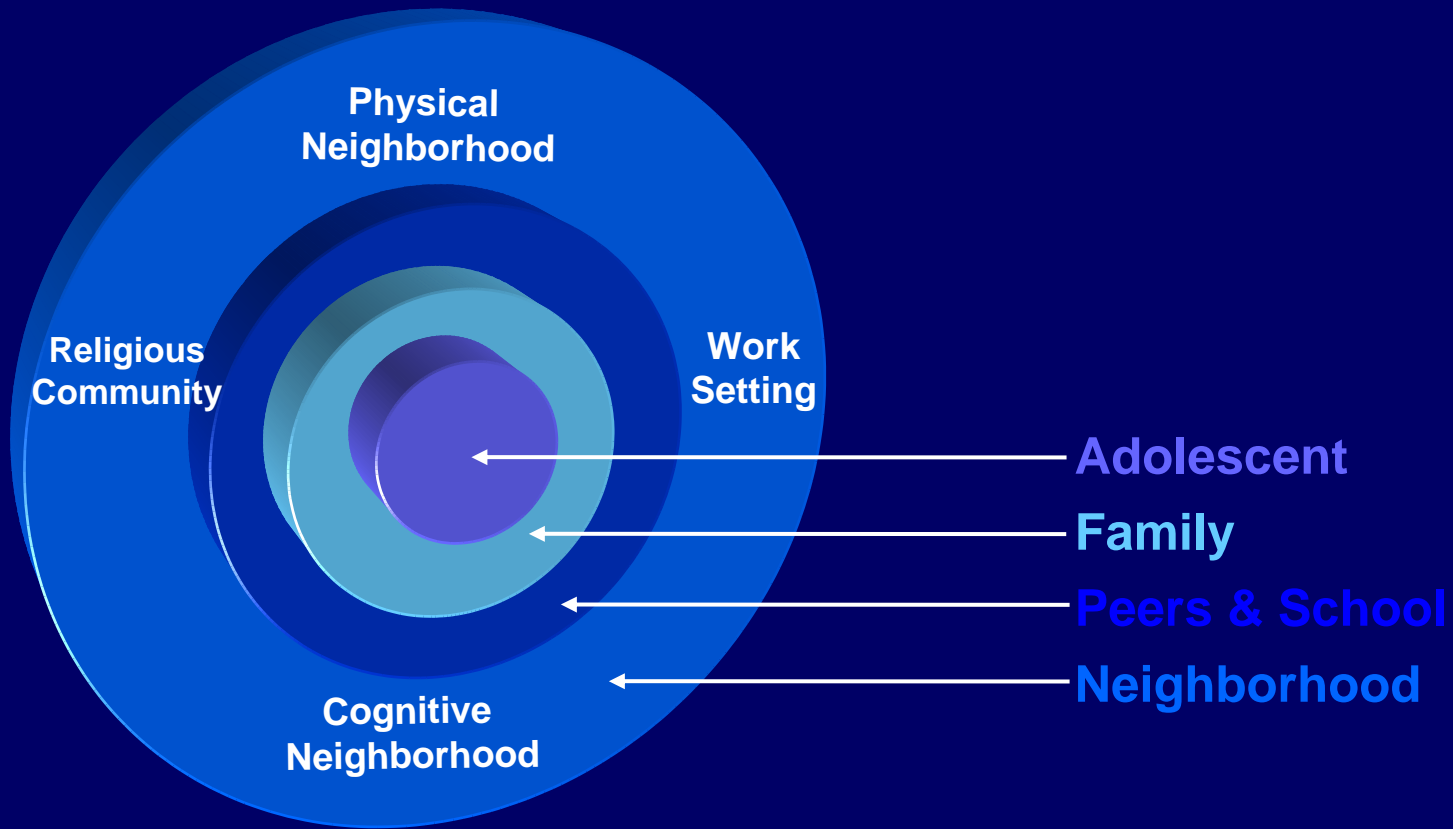
Family

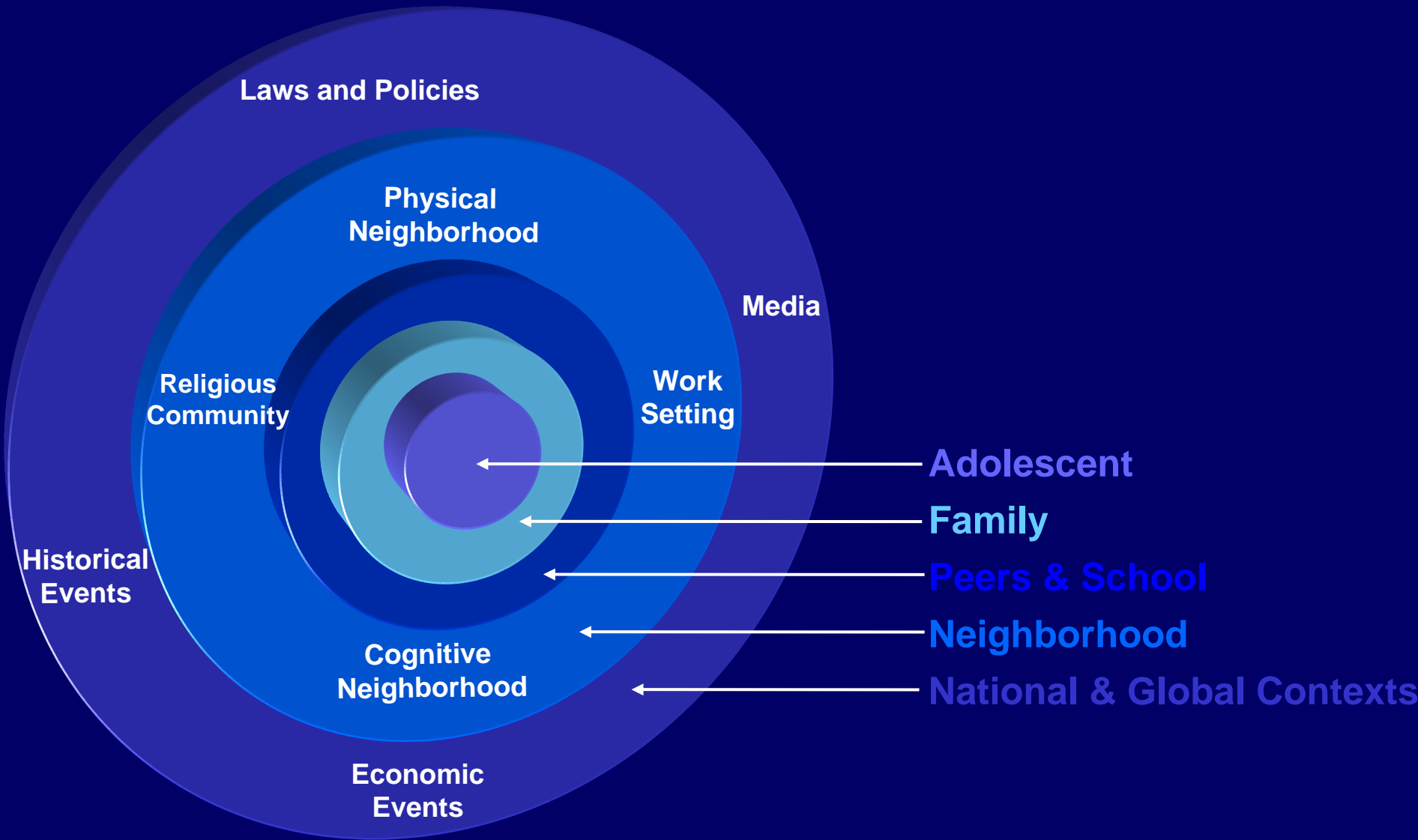
Peers & School



Risk

Protection



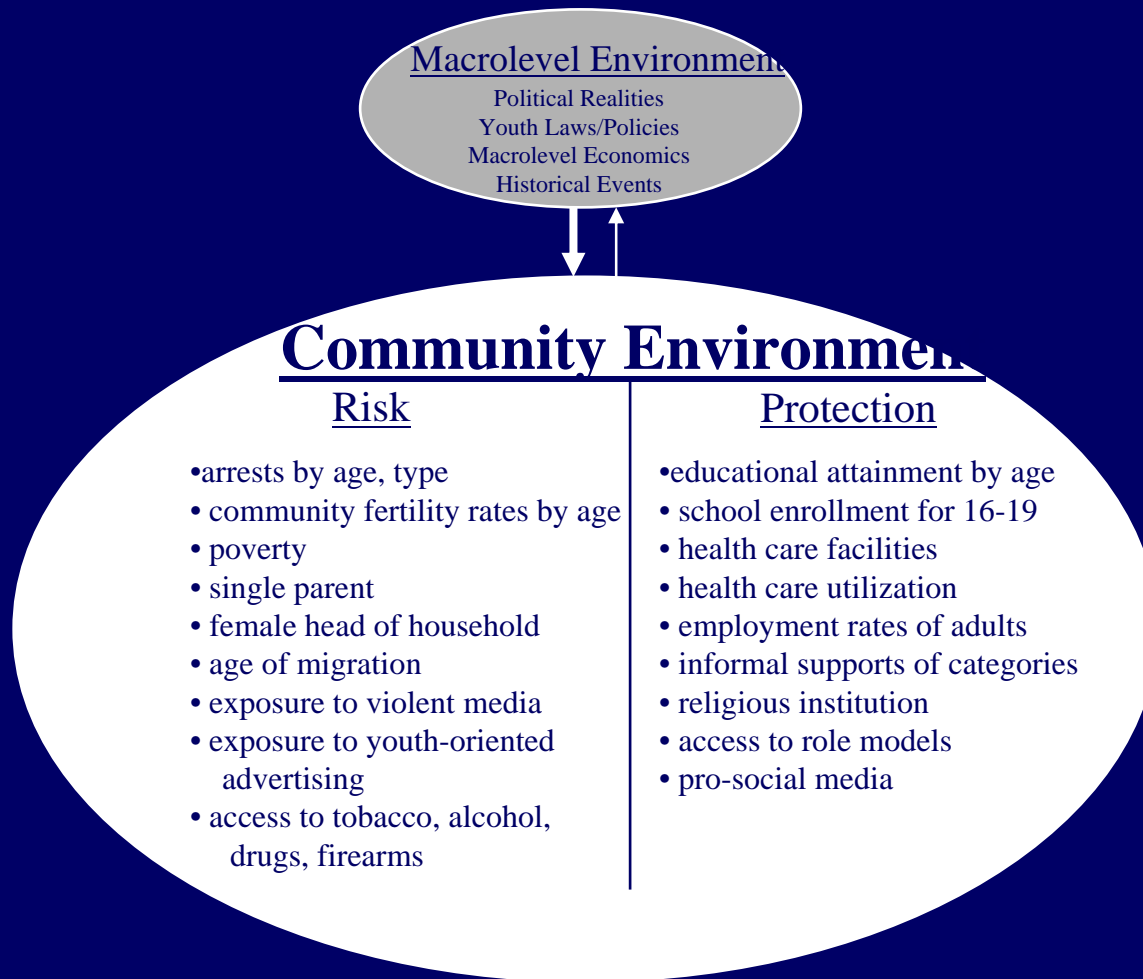


A Model of Youth Risk and Protection

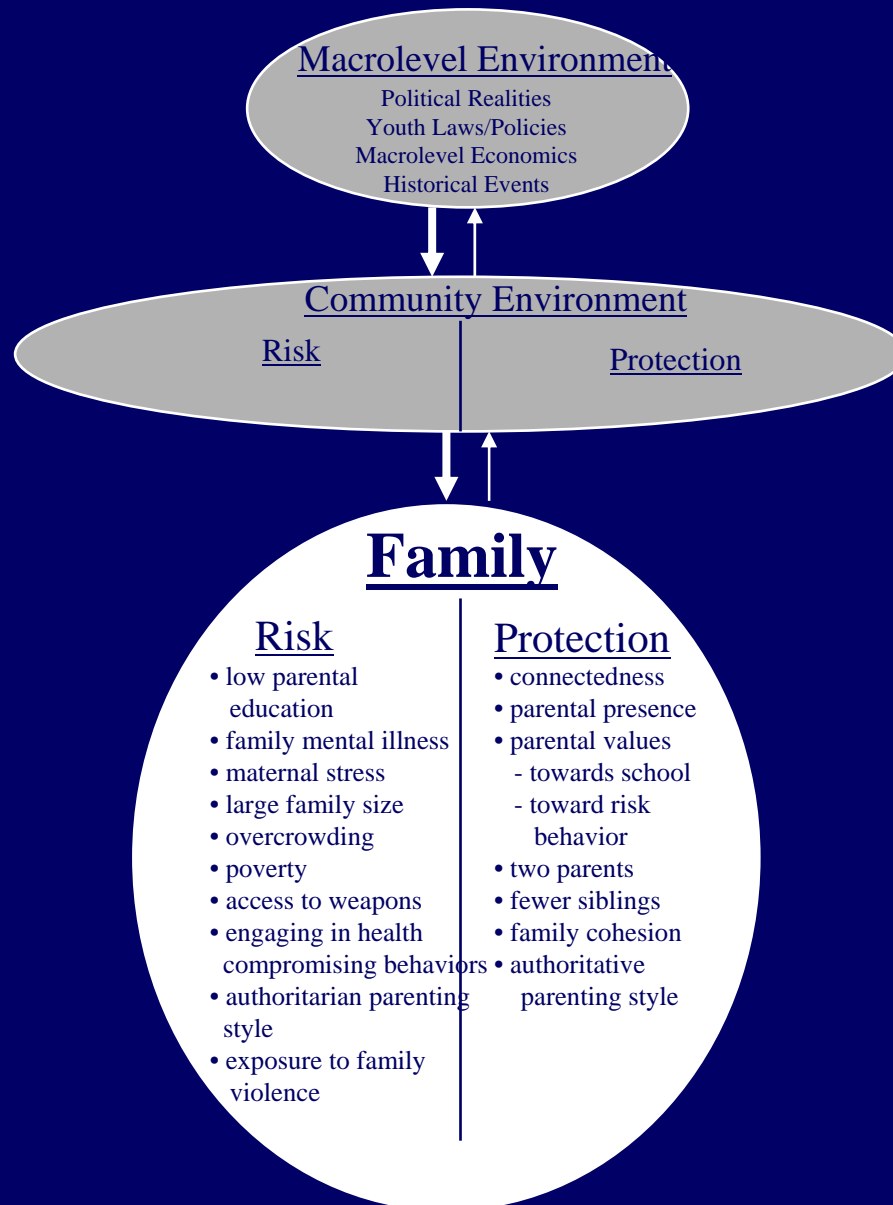
Macrolevel Environment

Political Realities
Youth Laws/Policies
Macrolevel Economics
Historical Events

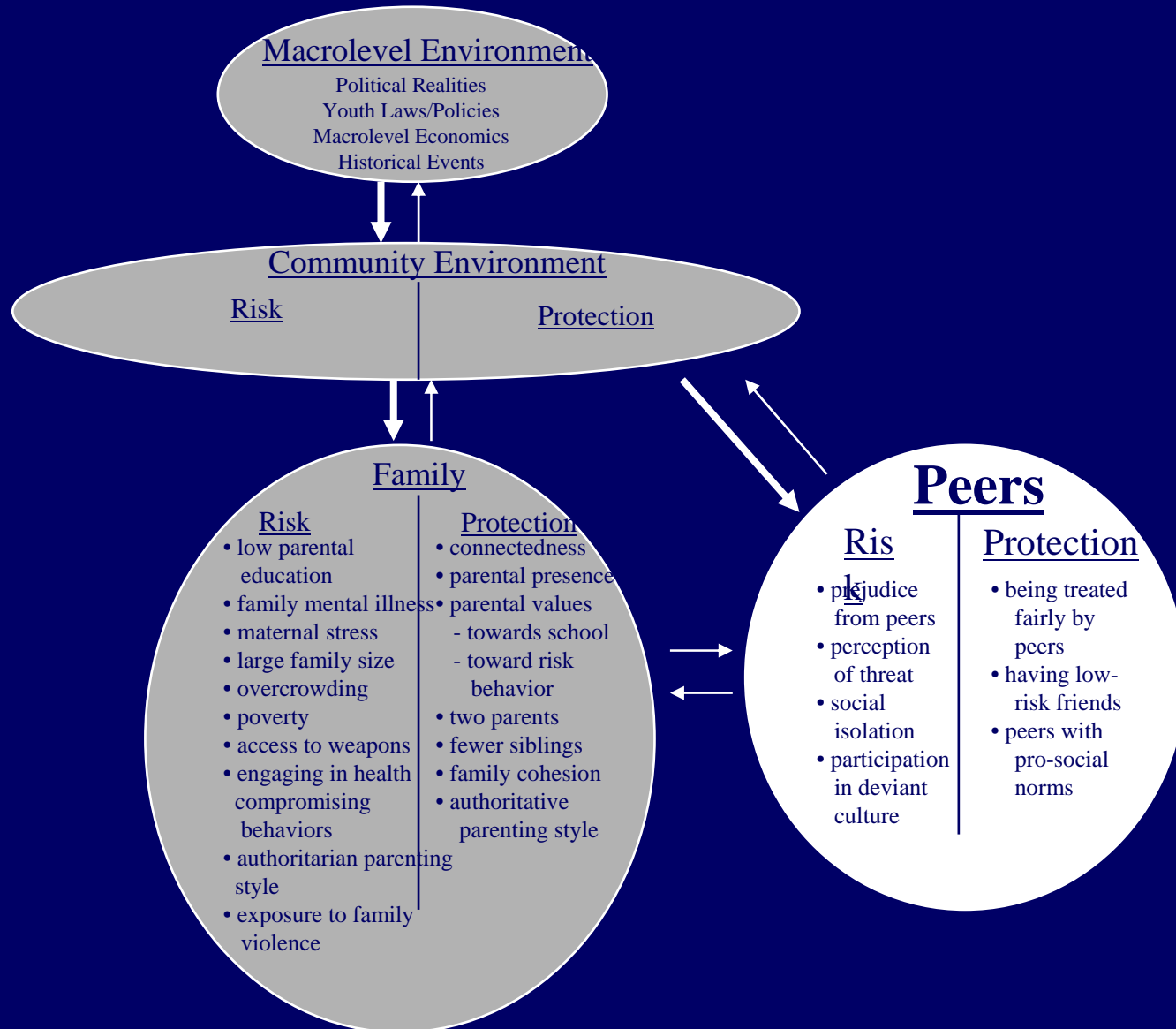
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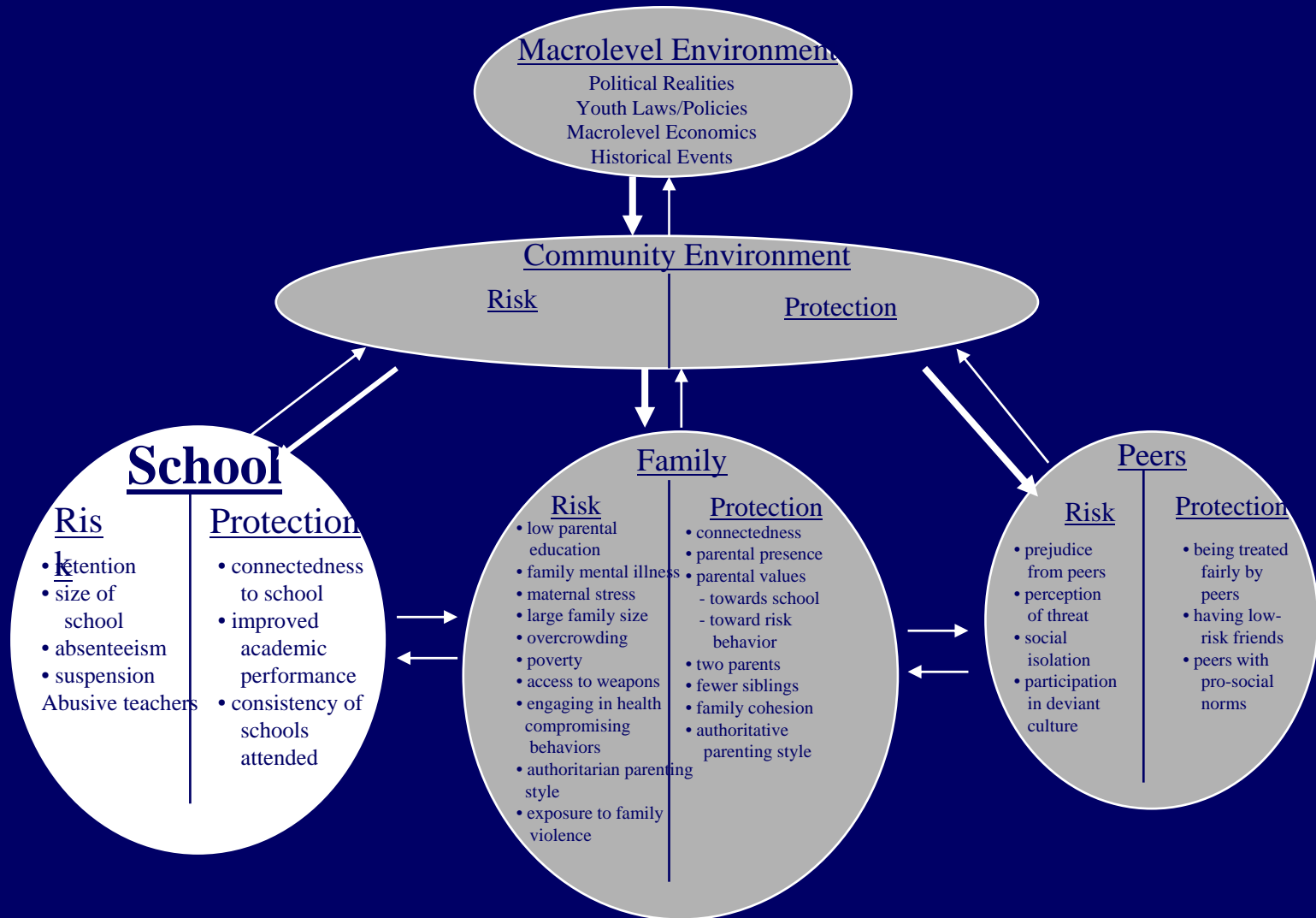
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