

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/). Your use of this material constitutes acceptance of that license and the conditions of use of materials on this site.



Copyright 2006, The Johns Hopkins University and Robert Wm. Blum. All rights reserved. Use of these materials permitted only in accordance with license rights granted. Materials provided "AS IS"; no representations or warranties provided. User assumes all responsibility for use, and all liability related thereto, and must independently review all materials for accuracy and efficacy. May contain materials owned by others. User is responsible for obtaining permissions for use from third parties as needed.

# **Juvenile Violence**

Robert Wm. Blum, MD, MPH, PhD

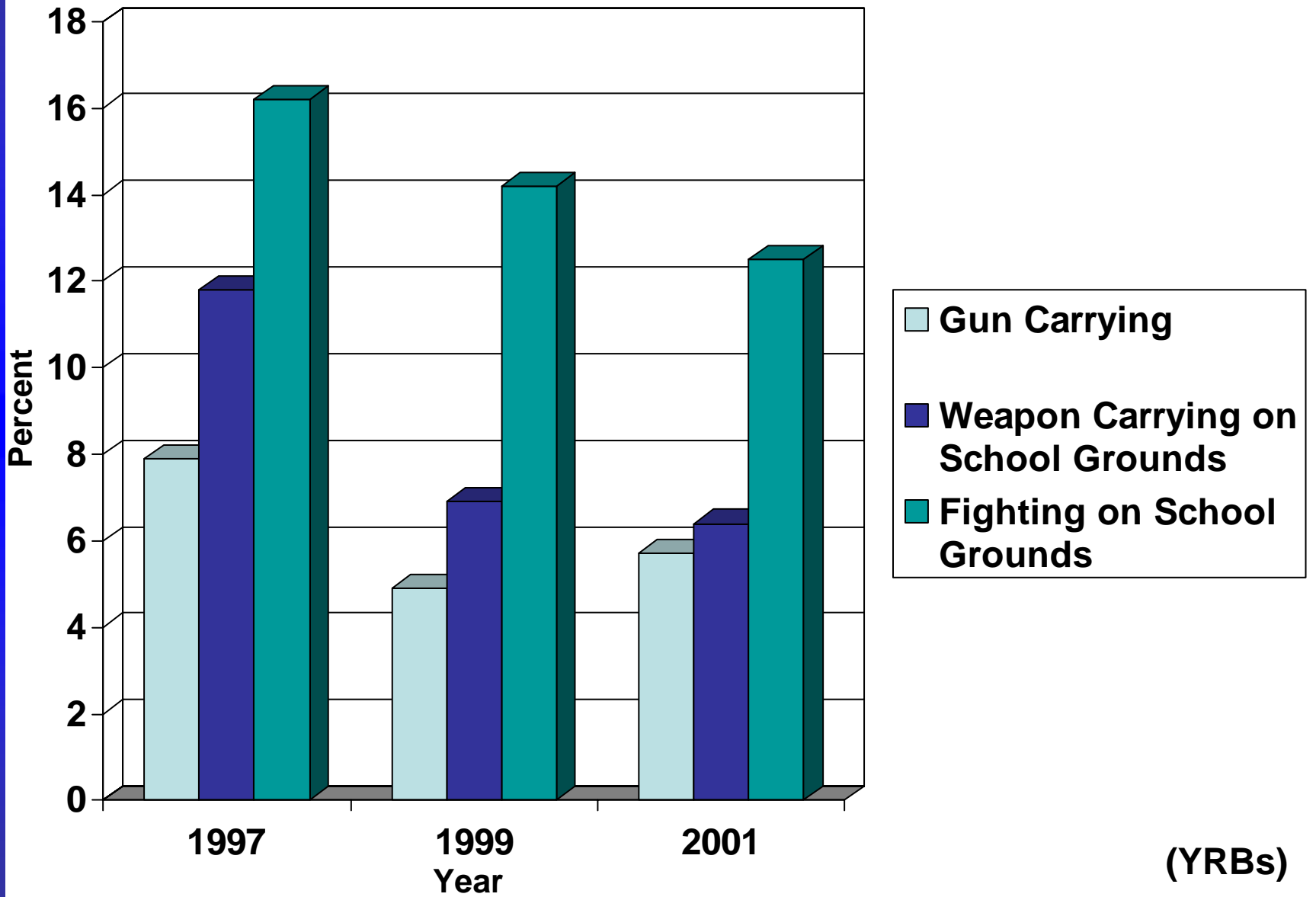
Professor & Chair, Population & Family Health  
Sciences

Prepared for:

Adolescent Health & Development

# **Violence**

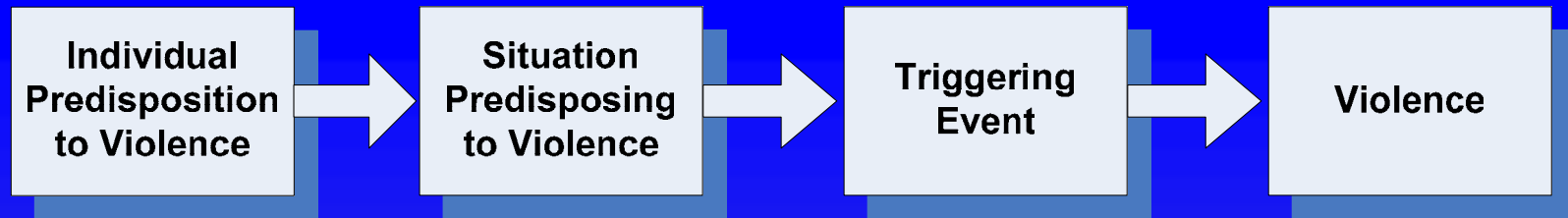
**The exercise or threat of physical force or coercion.**



# Add Health Violence Prevalence

	Male	Female
Use or threaten with a weapon	4.5%	2.3%
Pull a knife or gun on someone	6.8%	2.2%
Shoot/stab someone	2.8%	0.7%
Injured in a fight	5.4%	2.7%
Injured someone else in a fight	12.7%	4.5%

# A Model for Understanding Juvenile Violence



(Reiss & Roth, 2001)

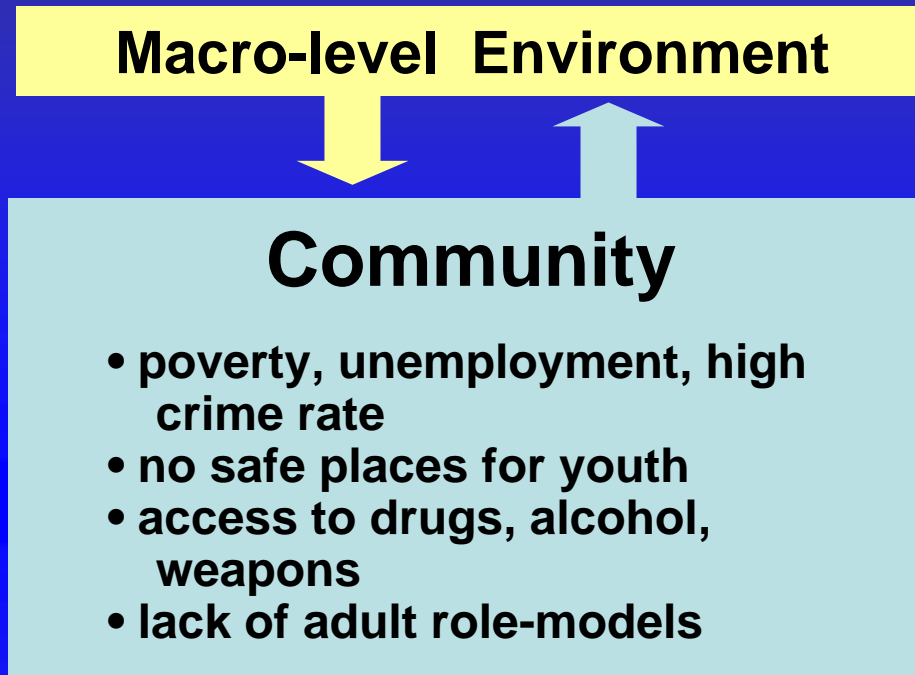
# **An Model for Juvenile Violence**

## **Macro-level Environment**

**Gun control legislation**

**Media violence**

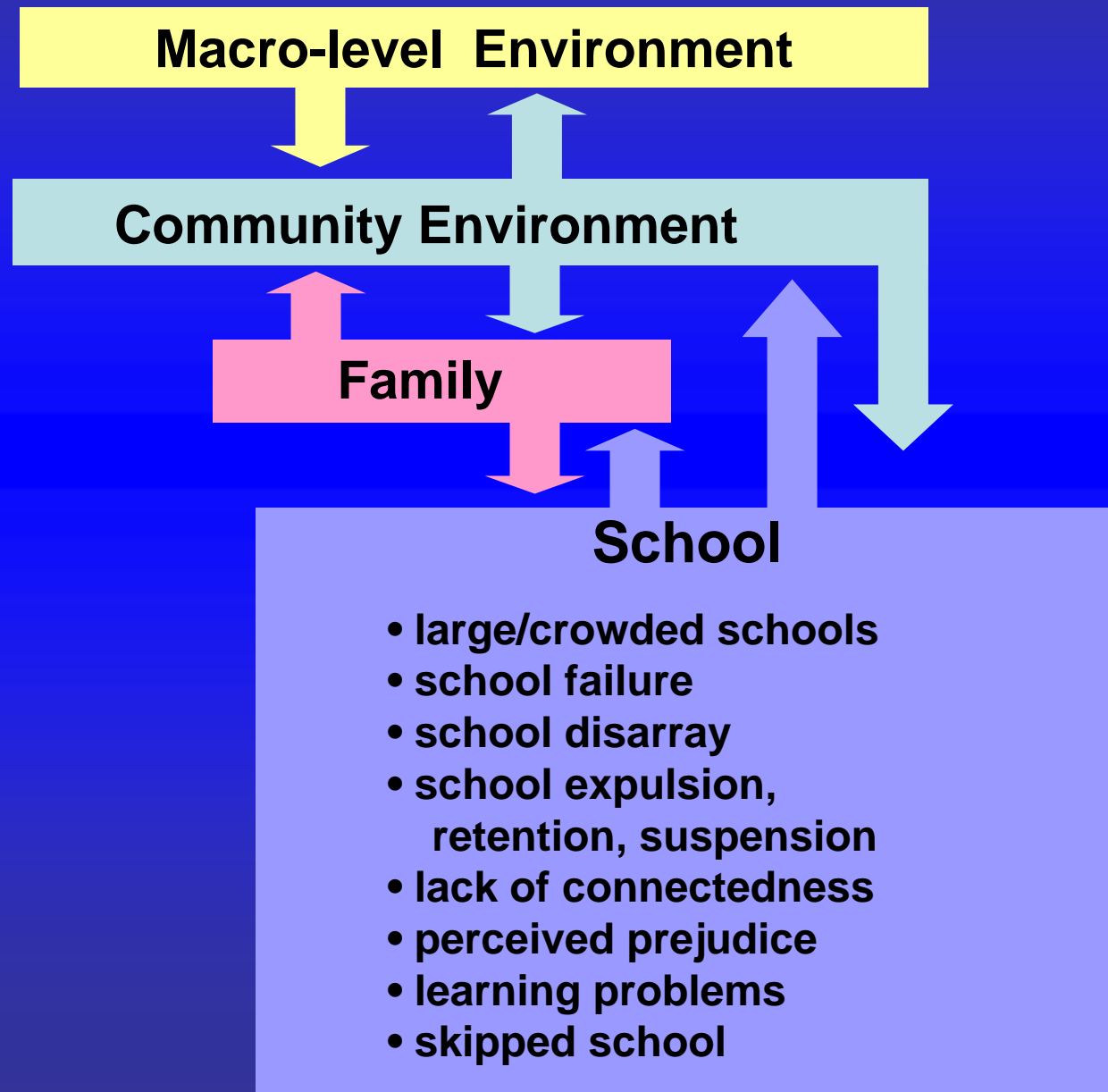
# An Model for Juvenile Violence



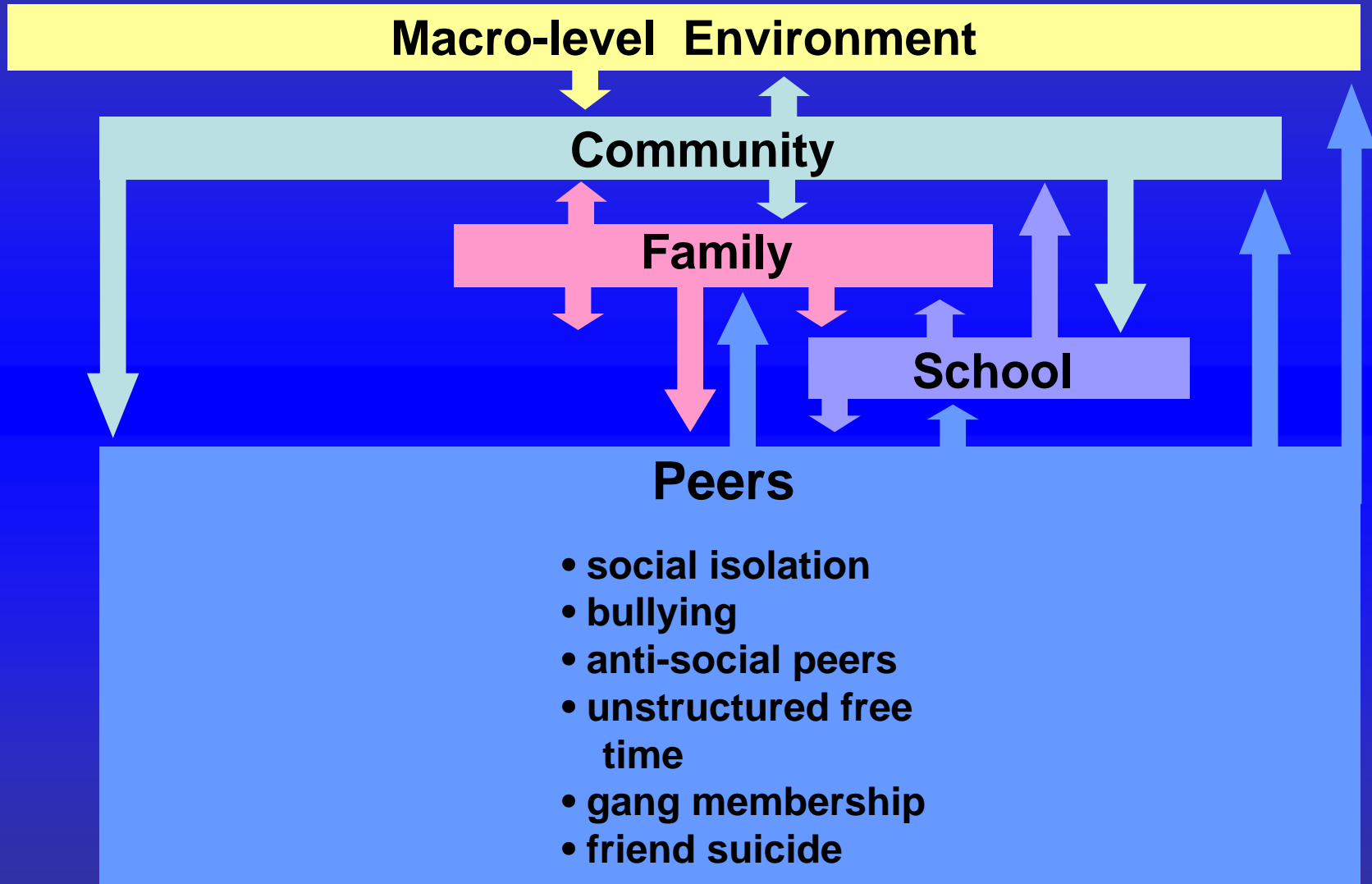
# An Model for Juvenile Violence



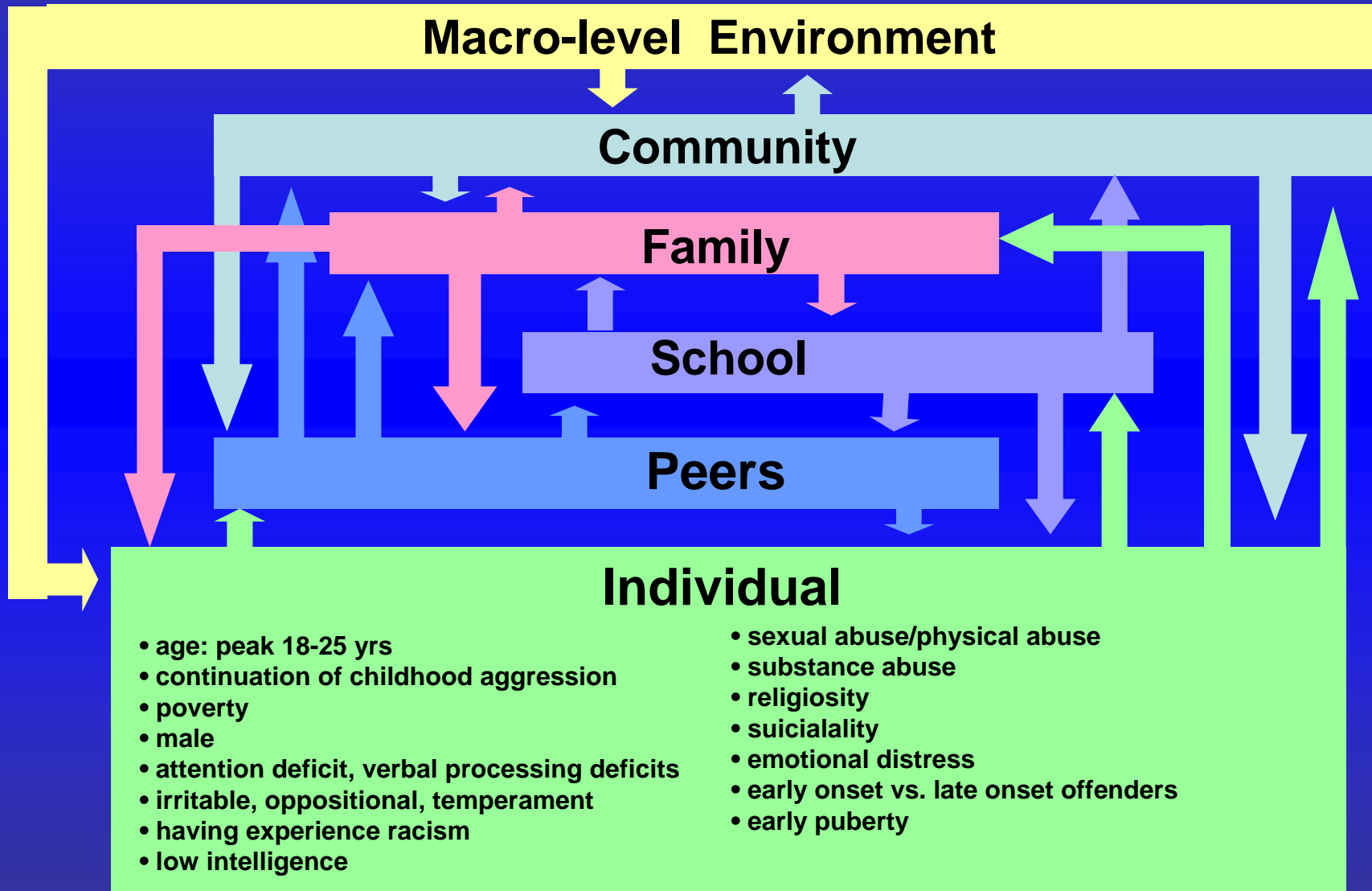
# An Model for Juvenile Violence



# An Model for Juvenile Violence



# An Model for Juvenile Violence



Each risk factor, in itself, has very low predictive probability that an adolescent will be violent.

What is the predicted probability of violence perpetration given the presence of key risk and protective factors?

# Predicted Probabilities of Violence Perpetration Among Teens in Two Parent Families Not on Welfare

(controlling for age)

# of Protective Factors	Family Connectedness	Connectedness to Other Adults/ Religiosity*	GPA	Boys		Girls	
				No Risk	All Risks**	No Risk	All Risks**
0	Low	Low	Low	23.2%	52.7%	11.4%	31.6%
1	High	Low	Low	19.1%	46.5%	9.1%	26.6%
1	Low	High	Low	19.1%	46.7%	10.1%	29.0%
1	Low	Low	High	11.9%	33.4%	5.0%	15.9%
2	Low	High	High	9.6%	28.2%	4.4%	14.2%
2	High	Low	High	9.6%	28.1%	3.9%	12.9%
2	High	High	Low	15.6 %	40.6%	8.1%	24.2%
3	High	High	High	7.7%	23.5%	3.5%	11.5%

\* Protective factor: Boys: Connectedness to other adults; Girls: Religiosity

\*\* Risk factors: Friend/family suicide, substance use, easy access to firearm in home.

# Predicted Probabilities of Violence Perpetration Among Teens in Single Parent Families Receiving Welfare

(controlling for age)

# of Protective Factors	Family Connectedness	Connectedness to Other Adults/ Religiosity*	GPA	Boys		Girls	
				No Risk	All Risks**	No Risk	All Risks**
0	Low	Low	Low	34.4%	65.0%	19.4%	46.5%
1	High	Low	Low	28.2%	59.2%	15.9%	40.5%
1	Low	High	Low	28.3%	59.3%	17.5%	43.4%
1	Low	Low	High	18.4%	45.5%	8.9%	26.2%
2	Low	High	High	15.1%	39.6%	8.0%	23.8%
2	High	Low	High	15.0%	39.5%	7.1%	21.7%
2	High	High	Low	23.6%	53.2%	14.3%	37.5%
3	High	High	High	12.2%	33.9%	6.3%	19.7%

\* Protective factor: Boys: Connectedness to other adults; Girls: Religiosity

\*\* Risk factors: Friend/family suicide, substance use, easy access to firearm in home.

# Interventions that Reduce Violence

# Individual Level Interventions

- Psychotherapy (-)
- Behavior Modifications ( $\pm$ )
- Scare/Fear Based (-)
- Cognitive-Behavioral (+)
- Self-esteem Building (-,-)
- Anger Management (-)
- Drug Treatment (+)

# Parent Level Interventions

- Positive Parenting (+)
- Home visitation programs (+)
- Multi-systemic Therapy (MST) (+)

# School Level Interventions

- Bullying prevention (+)
- Classroom Management (+)

# Community Level Interventions

- Community Rebuilding (+)
- Community Policing (+)
- Gang Reduction (-)
- Mentoring (+)
- School/Community/Parent Interventions (+)

# Lessons Learned from Violence Prevention Programs

1. Family-based multilevel interventions appear to be most promising
2. Comprehensive and practical programs
3. Start prevention early
4. Effective programs understand the contexts in which violence occurs
5. Focus on high crime neighborhoods & schools
6. All stakeholders need to be committed
7. Careful replications and implementation of effective programs is critical
8. Popular programs  $\neq$  successful programs