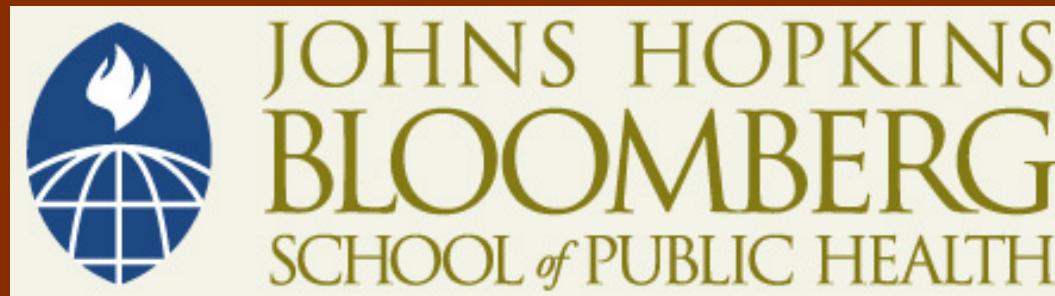


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JOHNS HOPKINS  
BLOOMBERG  
SCHOOL *of* PUBLIC HEALTH

## Section C

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Community and Cultural Contexts

# The Exosystem

- Community context



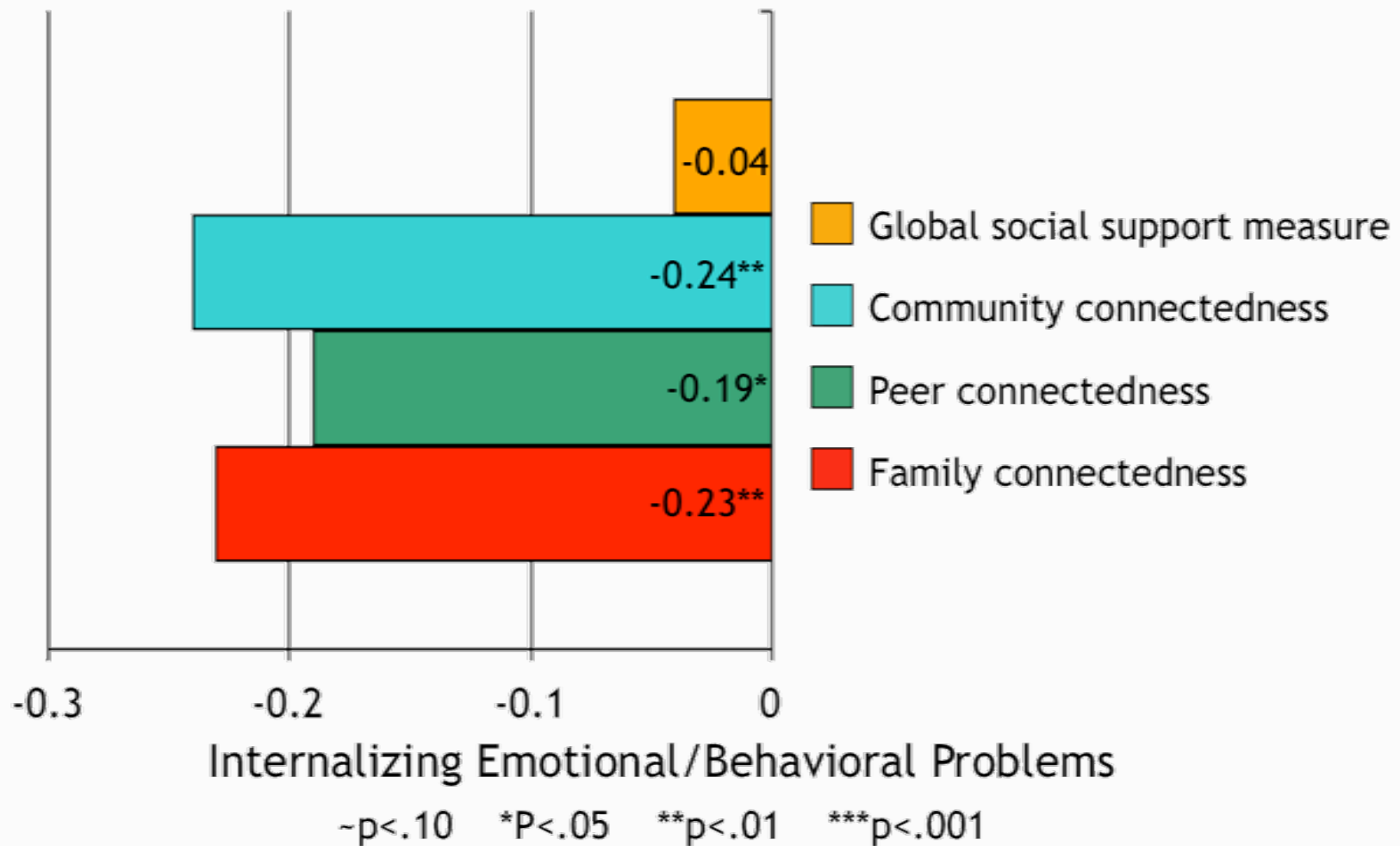
Photo by heraldpost. Creative Commons BY-NC. Retrieved from <http://www.flickr.com/photos/heritpost/3506847505/sizes/z/>

## Exosystem: Community

- As children age and transition to greater peer interaction and relationships, the community becomes more relevant
- Survey of different social support and mental health systems in Chechen IDP adolescents found that community connectedness had strongest relations

# Social Support and Connectedness

Social Support, Family, Peer and Community Connectedness among Chechen Youth



# The Macrosystem

- Cultural, historical, and political context



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# Macrosystem: Cultural Expectations of Coping

- Cultural expectations of coping and ideology
  - Cultural concept of “sumud” (the determination to persist despite hardships), provided a source of strength for Palestinians surviving under occupation
  - Palestinians youth with strongly defined ideology (glorification of the war, defiant attitudes towards the enemy and patriotic involvement) less likely to show mental health distress compared to peers who did not attribute such meaning to their experiences
  - Double-edged sword: Political ideologies may strengthen individuals amidst a struggle for survival. However, such beliefs may also perpetuate group tensions and further conflict.

# Macrosystem: Traditional Healing Practices

- Cambodia
  - Pol Pot regime sought to destroy religious networks by “derobing” and demoralizing Buddhist monks; disrupted the cultural traditions of teaching youth the spiritual practices and stories of their people
- Mozambique and Sierra Leone
  - Cleansing rituals for children returning from war



# Summary

- Resilience *not* merely as a quality of the individual ... resilient outcomes/trajectories evolve within the social ecology
- Resilience does not mean invulnerability
- Just as risk factors exist at all layers of the social ecology, resiliency factors and processes are also present at every level

# Resiliency in Public Health

- This model provides us with ...
  - Information on how different levels impact/interact with other levels
  - Many different leverage points for intervention
  - Recognition that a strengths-based approach could be as important as a risk-based one

# Discussion Questions for LiveTalk



- What differentiates risk and resiliency?
- What are the potential resiliency factors that could help children affected by HIV living in a low-resource context?
- What kind of research models could we use to investigate these resiliency factors and processes?