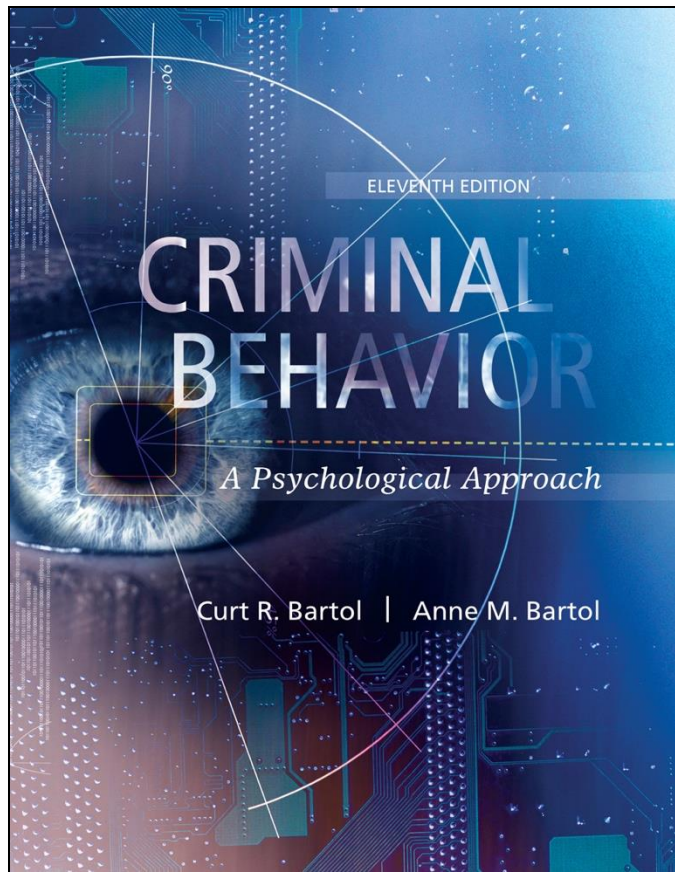


Criminal Behavior

A Psychological Approach

Eleventh Edition



CHAPTER 2

Origins of Criminal Behavior: Developmental Risk Factors

Chapter Objectives

- Introduce cumulative risk and developmental cascade models.
- Identify social, family, and psychological developmental risk factors that lead to delinquency and crime.
- Demonstrate how early preschool experiences can lead to a life of antisocial behavior.

Chapter Objectives

- Emphasize the extensive influence of peer rejection on child and youth behavior.
- Stress the connection between cognitive abilities and delinquency and crime.

Chapter Objectives

- Discuss attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), conduct disorder (CD), and oppositional defiant disorder (ODD) as possible contributors to delinquent and criminal behavior.

The Developmental Perspective

- Developmental pathways
- The life course of all humans follows a path, or trajectory, that may be littered with risk factors.
 - The more combined risk factors the higher the overall risk
 - School Failure
 - Drug and alcohol abuse
 - Antisocial peers (mainstream peer rejection)
 - Childhood victimization (most often by family)

The Developmental Perspective

- In utero and early childhood exposure to toxins while brain is rapidly developing
 - Environment
 - Mother
- Psychological challenges
 - Cognitive impairment
 - Language impairment
 - Lack of empathy
 - Lack of self-control: Impulsiveness
 - Lack of socialization skills
 - Leads to antisocial peers
 - Behavioral disorders such as Conduct Disorder
- Requires multiple negative factors in most cases

The Developmental Perspective

- A positive nurturing environment can mitigate the negative effects (positive factors)
 - Warm and caring parents
 - Good parental supervision
 - Especially with peers
 - Good education
- Not all criminal behavior originates in childhood.
 - Adult onset
 - Would apply to mental disorders such as schizophrenia that develop in early adulthood

Developmental Cascade Model

- Dynamic cascade model
- Emphasizes the interaction among risk factors and their effect on outcomes over the course of development.
- Cognitive competence (IQ)
 - Some childhood cognitive issues are lifelong problems
 - Can affect employability and positive interpersonal relationships later in life
 - Stabilizing factors
- Resilience
 - Learning to positively cope, or the opposite

Social Environmental Risk Factors

- Poverty
 - 20% of children in the U.S.
 - Severe overall effects
 - Overall health, both mental and physical, because of poor nutrition
 - Lower cognitive test scores
 - More likely to live in higher crime areas
 - More prone to negative differential association
 - Criminal subculture where crime is accepted
 - More likely to be a crime victim
 - This has been correlated with adult criminality

Social Environmental Risk Factors

- Often lower quality schools
 - High drop out rates
- More single parent home in poor areas
 - Leads to less parental supervision
- Higher unemployment rates
 - As mentioned, employment is a stabilizing factor
- Law enforcement and courts often deal more strictly with poor offenders
 - Less likely to seek, or offer, alternate interventions

Social Environmental Risk Factors

- Cumulative and interactive effects
 - More negatives in poor areas, more possible variable interaction than in rich neighborhoods
 - Many times, environmental and social negative factors that occur during the time the brain is rapidly developing have been shown to cause lifelong developmental problems
 - Ex. damage from childhood exposure to lead may be irreversible.
- Strong connection to persistent, violent offending victims and offenders

Social Environmental Risk Factors

- Peer rejection and association with antisocial peers
 - A strong predictor of adolescent substance use and delinquent behavior

Social Environmental Risk Factors

- Peer rejection and association with antisocial peers
 - One of the strongest predictors of later involvement in antisocial behavior is early rejection by “mainstream” peers.
 - The quality of parent-child and marital relationships
 - Parent child relationships are extremely important for young children
 - Peer importance replaces parental importance in the mid teen years

Social Environmental Risk Factors

- Parental supervision and peer oversight can mitigate some of the effects
 - Difficult for a single parent especially if there are a lot of children in the home
- Older delinquent siblings whose behavior is modeled by younger siblings
 - Look up to “big brother” who is making money through crime

Social Environmental Risk Factors

- Gang membership
 - Gangs offer what teens often want and cannot get through legitimate means
 - Sex
 - Drugs
 - Money
 - Comradery
 - Other reasons people join
 - Peer pressure
 - Safety

Why do People Join Gangs? (ABC10 3:34)



Social Environmental Risk Factors

- Many gangs are organized around financial crimes, but not all
 - Some are organized around drug use
 - Drop out of an uncaring society

Peer Rejection

- Mainstream peer rejection often linked to:
 - Inadequate social skills
 - Aggressive behavior
 - Impulsivity
 - Anger or emotional rage
 - ADHD and other psychological disorders
 - Being poor
 - Just perceived as being “different”

Peer Rejection

- Gender
 - Most research has focused on boys
 - Boys more likely to engage in crime
 - Newer studies on girls found that peer rejection does not have the same effect as it does for boys with regard to crime and delinquency
 - Early involvement in aggressive behavior with peers
 - Relational aggression

Social Environmental Risk Factors

- After-school care
 - Quality matters
 - Unsupervised after-school care
 - Higher risk for behavior problems in adolescence

Social Environmental Risk Factors

- Academic failure
 - Over 25% of public school students in general
 - Over 50% in some poverty areas
 - Detrimental effects on mental and psychological development
 - Labeling
 - Reading achievement
 - Academic failure is correlated with criminality
 - 75% of state prison inmates, 59% of Federal inmates and 69% of convicted jail inmates did not complete high school (Harlow, 2003)

Parental and Family Risk Factors

- Single-parent households
 - Quality of the relationship between the child and the custodial parent and the noncustodial parent in early childhood
 - Economic status and degree of emotional support provided to the family by other adults
 - A key factor in delinquency prevention

Parental and Family Risk Factors

- Parental styles
 - Parent-child interactions characterized by parental attitudes toward the child and the emotional climate of the parent-child relationship
 - Gestures, tone of voice
 - Parent-Parent relationship is also important
 - Modeling violence in relationships

Parental Styles

- Baumrind's Four Parental Styles
 1. Authoritarian
 2. Permissive
 3. Authoritative
 4. Neglecting

Parental Styles (TreevelopmentT 6:03)



Parenting Styles

Parental Styles

- Authoritarian or Enmeshed
 - Parents see an unusually large number of minor behaviors as problematic, and they use ineffective, authoritarian strategies to deal with them.
 - May be inconsistent
 - Inconsistent discipline highly correlated with delinquency and behavior problems
 - How is the child supposed to learn what is wrong?
 - Ineffective use of coercive punishment
 - Because the punishment is ineffective, children do not learn control
 - Can lead to delinquency

Parental Styles

- Permissive or Lax Style
 - Parents fail to recognize or accept the fact that their children are involved in deviant, antisocial, or even violent actions.
 - No disciplinary action
 - Never learn to obey rules because there are none

Parental Styles (Simpsons 0:53)



Parental Styles

- Neglecting Style
 - In neglectful parenting where there is no emotional involvement, no warmth, children fail to learn empathy. Antisocial tendencies develop.
 - No one cares about them, they don't care about anyone else either.
 - You will find this trait of lack of empathy in many of the serial killers

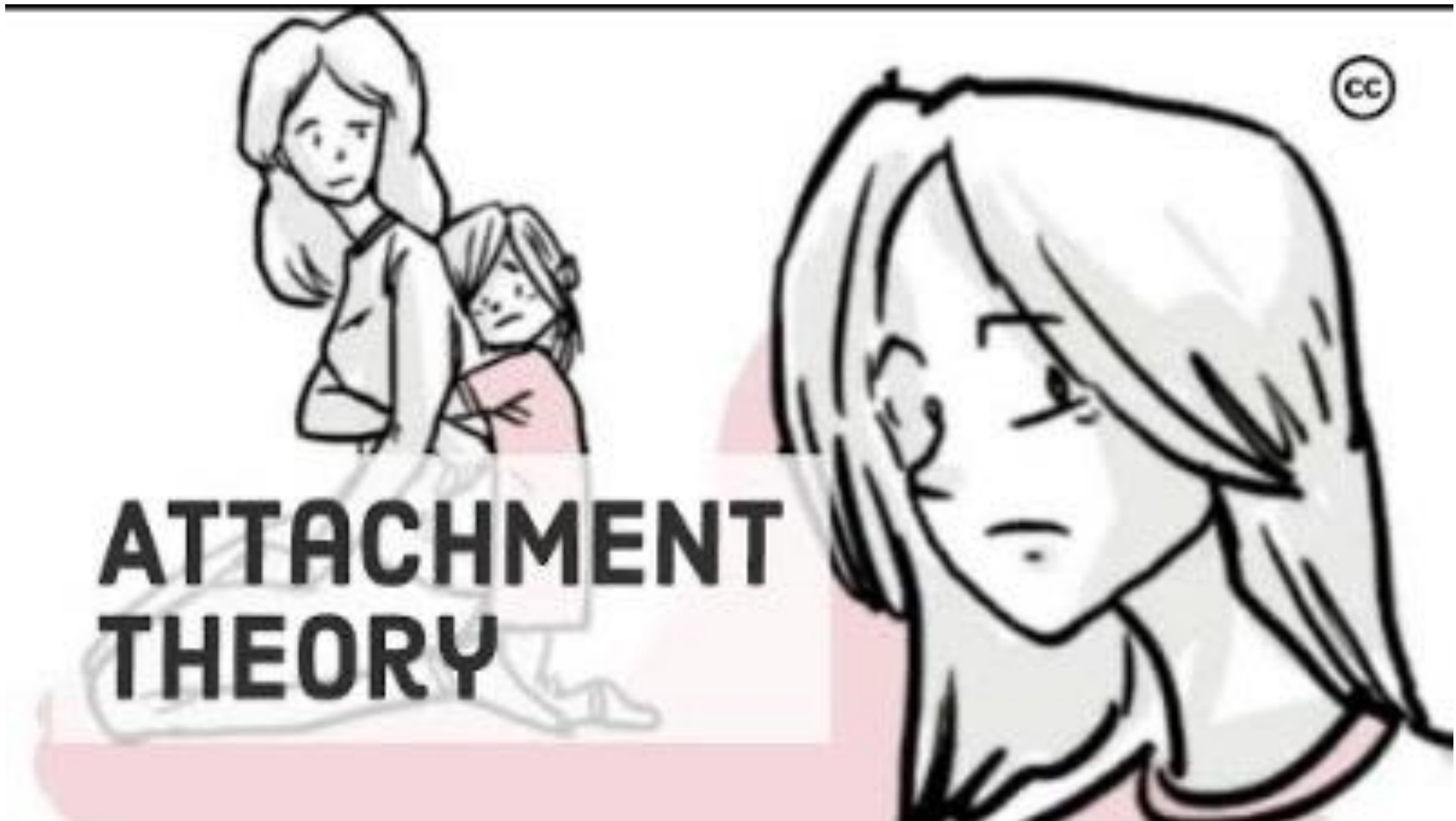
Parental and Family Risk Factors

- Authoritative style
- Parental monitoring
 - Parents' awareness of their child's peer associates, free-time activities, and physical whereabouts when outside the home
 - Child has a voice in decisions
 - But can be overruled
 - Learns rational decision making skills
 - Monitored youths are less likely to participate in drug and alcohol use or engage in delinquent behavior.
 - Middle school years are very important

Parental and Family Risk Factors

- Siblings
 - Imitation
 - Especially of older revered sibling
 - However, if older sibling is not revered, may have the opposite effect
 - Conflict
 - Fight with sibling(s), fight with others?
 - Adolescents with high rates of delinquency are also more likely to have siblings with high rates of delinquency.
 - May be a SLIGHT genetic connection.
 - Twin studies (especially ones raised apart)
 - Modeling may better explain the correlation in most cases

Attachment Issues (Sprouts 7:38)



Attachment Issues

- Mother's attachment to newborn
 - Secure is required for normal emotional development
 - Insecure
 - Anxious/ambivalent
 - Avoidant
 - Deficiencies in caregiving
 - Harlow's monkey studies
 - Lack of a mother to attach to led to:
 - Depression
 - Aggressive behaviors

Psychological Risk Factors

- Lack of empathy
 - Affective
 - See, and do not care, about someone else's suffering
 - This type of deficit is linked to violence
 - Cognitive
 - See, but do not understand, someone else's suffering
 - Psychopaths
 - Low affective empathy
 - Animal cruelty
 - A precursor to cruelty to persons in some, but not all, cases
 - Will develop other problems as this behavior is almost certain to lead to peer rejection

Psychological Risk Factors

- Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
 - The leading psychological diagnosis for American children
 - Inattention
 - Impulsivity
 - Excessive motor activity
 - Self stimulating
 - Between 52 and 82% of children with ADHD have peer rejection issues

Psychological Risk Factors

- The most common problem associated with ADHD is delinquency and substance abuse.
 - 25% will engage in criminal behavior at some time
 - Does prescribing a psychoactive drug at an early age lead to substance abuse later in life?
- ADHD in jail and prison inmate populations is far higher than it is in the general population
 - More likely to violate rules while incarcerated and can affect length of incarceration

Psychological Risk Factors

- Juveniles **cannot** be diagnosed with any personality disorder.
- Conduct disorder (CD)
 - A cluster of behaviors characterized by persistent misbehavior
 - Average age of onset is 11
 - Repetitive and persistent
 - Violates rights of others or societal norms (laws)
 - Many have tortured animals
 - Set fires
 - Starting fights
 - Lying

Psychological Risk Factors

- The diagnostic label most often placed on youths who appear before the juvenile courts
- Precursor to Antisocial Personality Disorder in adulthood
 - APD diagnosis requires person had Conduct Disorder as a youth prior to age 15 (formally diagnosed or not while a juvenile)
 - Two Subsets of APD are Psychopath and Sociopath

Psychological Risk Factors

- Oppositional defiant disorder
 - Often loses temper. Often argues with family, classmates and teachers. Actively defies or refuses to comply with rules and laws.
 - Problems in self-control of emotions and behaviors
 - Cannot stand to be controlled
 - Blames others
 - Adjustment problems in adolescence and adulthood
 - May develop into Conduct Disorder

Psychological Risk Factors

- Difference between CD and ODD
 - Conduct disorder persons violate the rights of others, people and animals
 - ODD persons hate being controlled by rules, laws or other persons.

Key Concepts

- Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- Authoritarian style
- Authoritative style
- Conduct disorder (CD)
- Cumulative risk (CR) model
- Developmental cascade model (also dynamic cascade model)

Key Concepts

- Developmental pathways
- Disruptive behavioral disorders
- Enmeshed style
- Language impairment
- Lax style
- Neglecting style
- Oppositional defiant disorder (ODD)
- Parental monitoring

Key Concepts

- Parental practices
- Parental styles
- Permissive style
- Psychometric approach
- Psychometric intelligence
- Self-regulation

Additional Resources

Videos:

ABC10.com (2022) Why do young people join gangs? And what's being done to detour young people | Race and Culture <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Af8PjS95ydI>

TreevelopmentT (2021) Parenting Styles and Their Effects - Parenting Style Effects on Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcxtYDwpHc8>

Fox Television (1996) Ned Flanders Parents, Season 8 Episode 8.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkKwyjsJGxk>

Sprouts (2018) Attachment Theory: How Childhood Affects Life.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjOowWxOXCg>