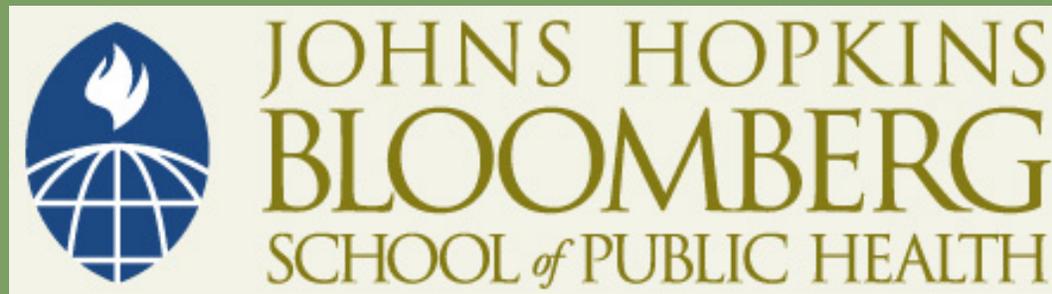


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## Section C

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Socially Toxic Environments: Implications for  
Child Brain Development

## Probabilistic, *NOT* Predictive

- Exposure to toxic environmental factors—whether physical, chemical, or social—are probabilistic. When present they do not seal one's fate; they just up the odds.
- There is a cumulative nature to the negative effects of toxic environments ... the more that are present, the worse the odds

# Environmental Press

- The combined set of forces working in a setting to shape behavior and development
- It arises from circumstances confronting and surrounding an individual
- Over time people tend to conform to the demands of their environments

# The Principle of Progressive Conformity

People tend to resemble their environments  
– *Rudolph Moos*

# The Secrets of the Street

- Snowden's Secret
- Dantrell's Secret
- Milgram's Secret

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# The Good Samaritan Experiment

- Study conducted with theology students: those who were in a hurry to get to an important event were much less likely to help a stranger on the sidewalk writhing in pain than those who had extra time to get to the event
- Context drives behavior (Milgram's Secret)

# How Neighborhood/Community Affect Development

- Theories of how neighborhood and community affect child development
  - **Stress theory:** the role of cortisol on altering neurodevelopment
  - **Social organization theory:** the importance of role models and values consensus in a neighborhood
  - **Epidemic theory:** the broken window hypothesis
  - Institutional explanations: institutions, such as parks and recreation, rather than people