Urban Child Symposium
Panel One: The Juvenile and His/Her Needs

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Adolescent Stage of Development

- **Challenge:** Identity versus Role Diffusion
- **Strengths:** Fidelity and Devotion

Erik Erikson (1902-1994)
Adolescence: The Challenge

“She woke me up daily, I don’t need no Starbuck”

“I was a ‘playa’ when I was little but I’m ‘bigga’”

“I want the money, money and the cars, cars and clothes”

“Eenie, meenie, miney, mo. Catch a bad chick by the toe”

-Justin Bieber
Adolescent Brain Development (Brenhouse & Andersen 2011)

- Emotional Reactivity
- Novelty/Reward Seeking
- Cognitive Control
- Response Inhibition
Older Adolescents: Hi Risk Behaviors

15 – 24 yrs old

- Accidents > Homicides > Suicides are leading causes of death
- Half of newly acquired Sexually Transmitted Diseases occur in these youth
- Highest risk of car accidents is for drivers 16 – 19 years old
- 24% of high school students report at least one binge drinking episode in past month

www.cdc.gov
Experience and Learning

- Experience needed to connect behaviors with consequence & identify risky situations
- Identify factors that can be modified in the environment that reduce risk (e.g. no driving late at night or with multiple passengers)
Adverse Childhood Experience Study (Felitti et al, 1998)

The ACE Study: 17,000 adults who were undergoing a standardized physical examination

- Emotional Abuse 10.6 %
- Physical Abuse 28.3 %
- Sexual Abuse 20.7 %
- Emotional Neglect 14.8 %
- Physical Neglect 9.9 %

http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/ace/prevalence.htm
Mental illness & Age of Onset

Median Age of Onset (years old)

- Anxiety Disorder: 11
- Impulse Control Disorder: 11
- Substance Abuse Disorder: 20
- Mood Disorder: 30

National Comorbidity Survey Replication (Kessler et al 2005)
Hi risk/sensation seeking behaviors is an important feature of adolescent development.

Interventions that may improve adolescent outcomes include mental health screening/trauma assessment.

Environmental structure to graduate independence allows for experience/learning to improve judgment.