Juvenile Violence

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Violence

The exercise or threat of physical force or coercion.

Bullying

Characterized by: 1. characterized by **aggressive behavior or intentional harm-doing** that is 2. carried out **repeatedly over time** in 3. an interpersonal relationship characterized by an **imbalance of power**.

Can be verbal (more common among girls), physical (more common among boys) or relational (e.g. social isolation more characterized by girls).

Both bullying victims and perpetrators are at greater risk for

- *Depression*
- *Suicide*
- *Disliking school*
- *Poorer academic performance*
- *Health problems*

Long term consequences of bullying

- Bullies: At age 24 a 4 times greater likelihood for criminal behavior– 60% with at least once conviction and 40% with 3 or more.
- Victims: At age 23 higher rates of depression and poorer self esteem

Community Level Violence

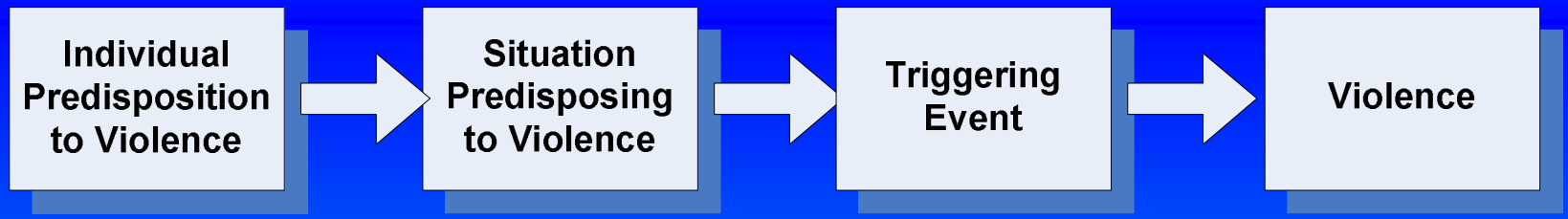
- Witnessing Violence with weapon
- Gang Violence
- Community level violence with weapon
- Home violence with or without weapon
- Partner violence

Exposure to Violence and PTSD

- Witnessing Violence with a weapon: 2.16***
- Gang Violence: 2.79***
- Violence Victimization with a weapon: 3.33***
- Home Violence with a weapon: 2.30**
- Home violence without a weapon: 1.94***

An Ecological Model for Juvenile Violence

A Model for Understanding Juvenile Violence



(Reiss & Roth, 2001)

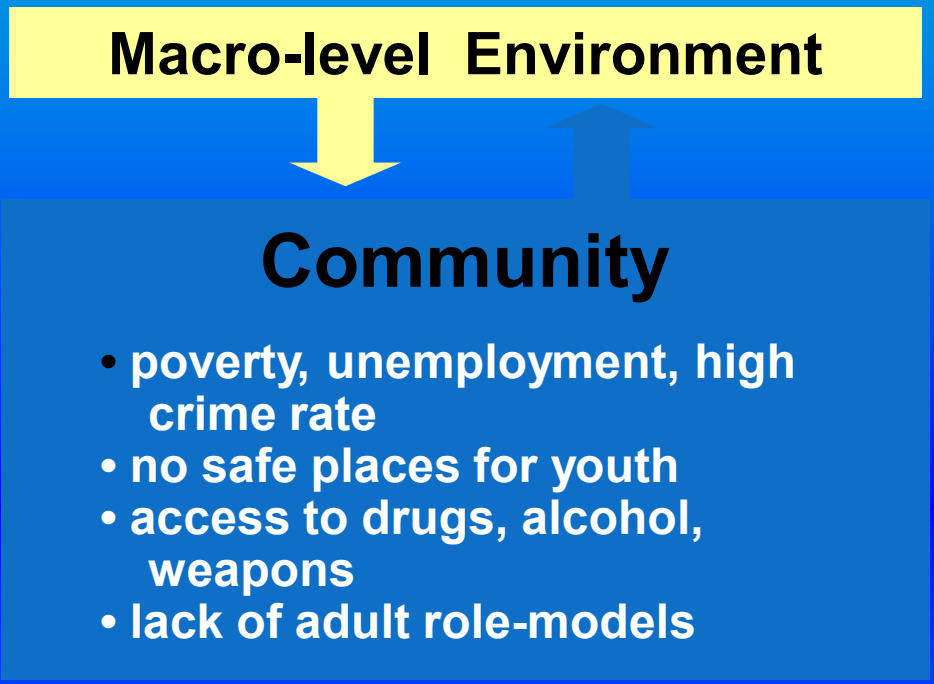
An Model for Juvenile Violence

Macro-level Environment

Gun control legislation

Media violence

An Model for Juvenile Violence



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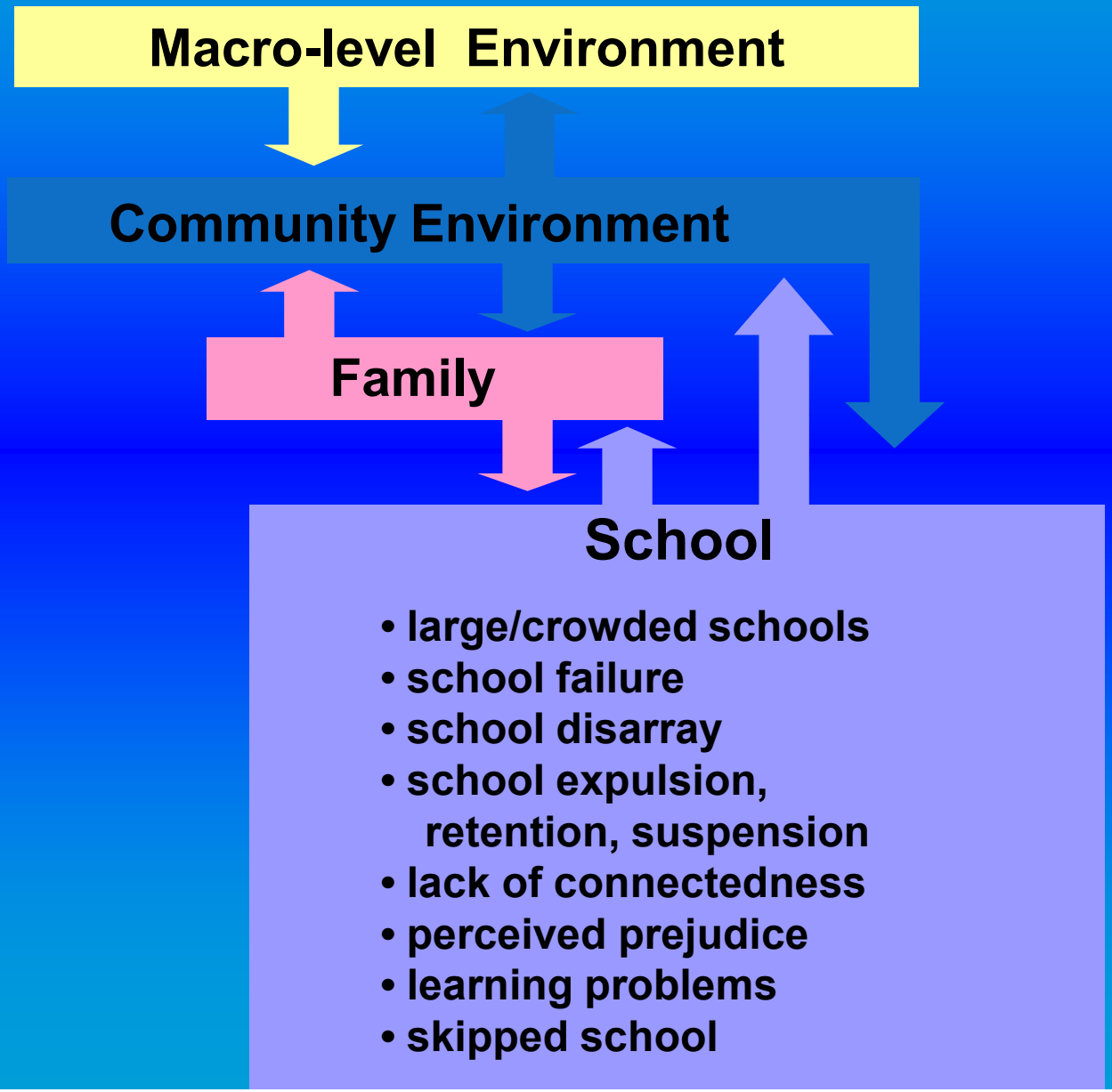

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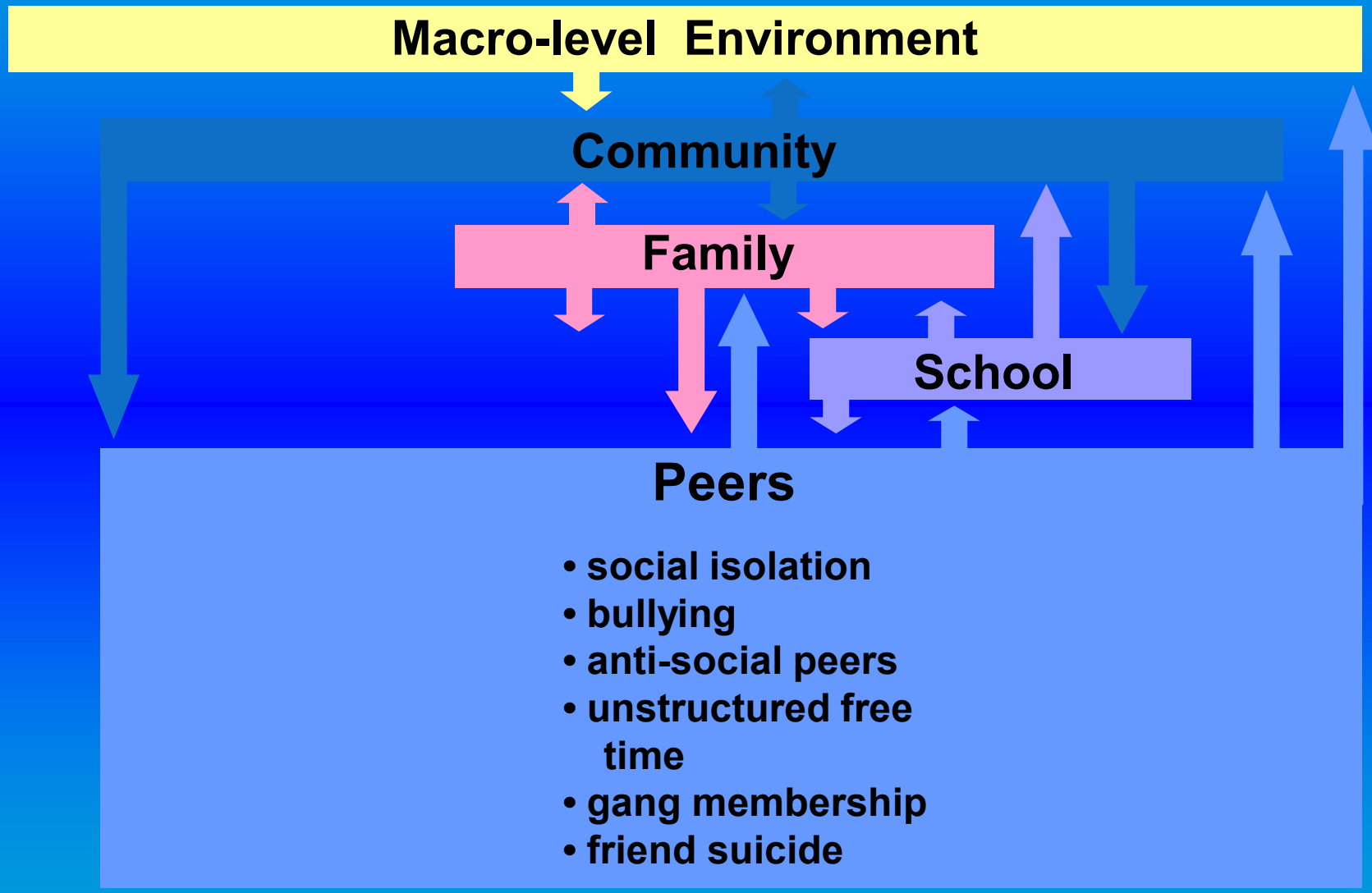

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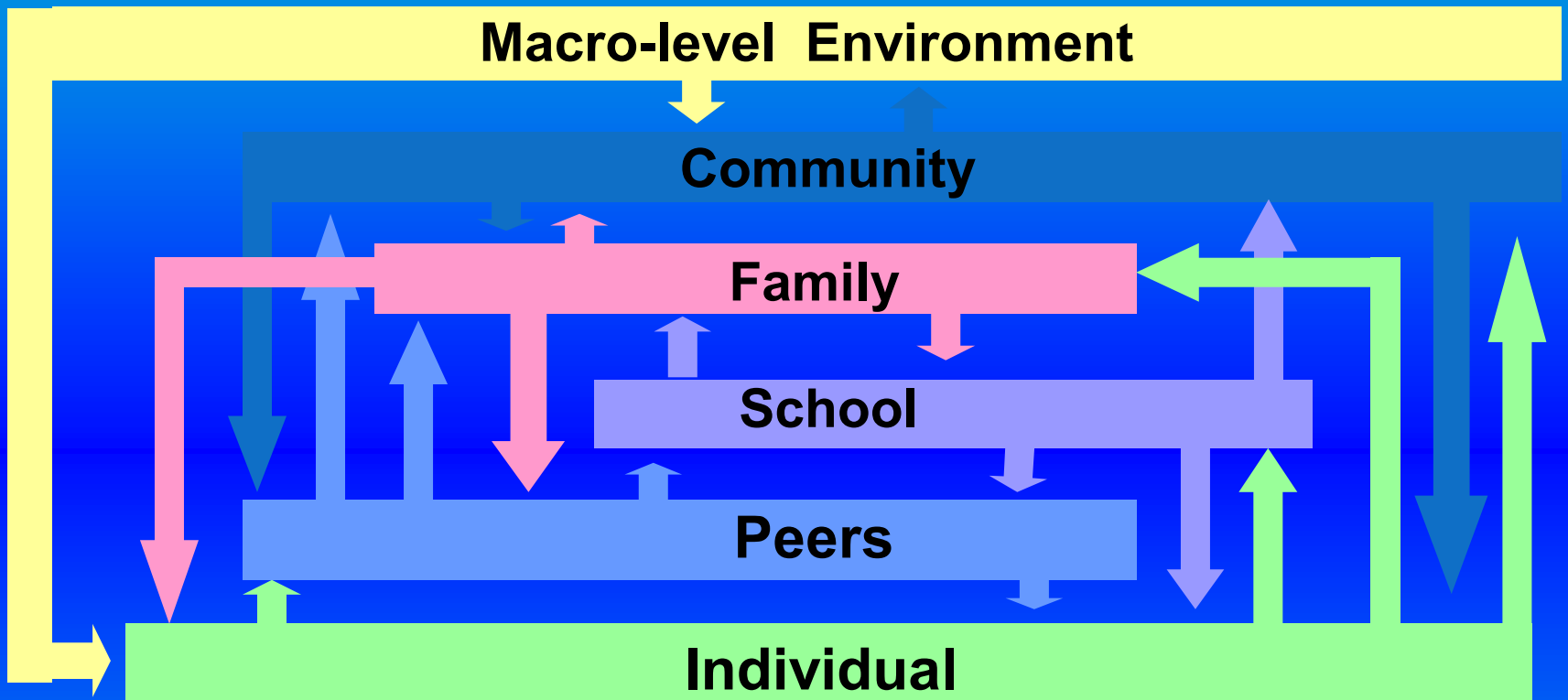

Individual

- age: peak 18-25 yrs
- continuation of childhood aggression
- poverty
- male
- attention deficit, verbal processing deficits
- irritable, oppositional, temperament
- having experienced racism
- sexual abuse/physical abuse
- substance abuse
- religiosity
- suicialality
- emotional distress
- early onset vs. late onset offenders
- early puberty
- low intelligence

Each risk factor, by itself, has very low predictive probability that an adolescent will be violent. Together the odds increase with every additional factor.

Section C

Interventions that Reduce Violence

www.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints/model/overview

Individual Level Interventions

- Psychotherapy (-)
- Scare/Fear Based (-)
- Self-esteem Building (-,-)
- Behavior Modifications (±)
- Cognitive-Behavioral (+)
- 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

- Gang Reduction (-)

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

Successful Programs

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of America
- Functional Family Therapy
- Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care
  - Intense, regular home visits
- Olweus Bullying Prevention Program
- **Families Fuertes**

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 ≠ successful programs