

The Impact of Child Maltreatment on Health in Developing Countries

James A. Mercy, PhD

Division of Violence Prevention

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

jam2@cdc.gov

Overview of Talk

- 1 The magnitude of child maltreatment in developing countries
- 1 The science base supporting the impact of child maltreatment on health
- 1 Epidemiologic evidence for impact of child maltreatment on health

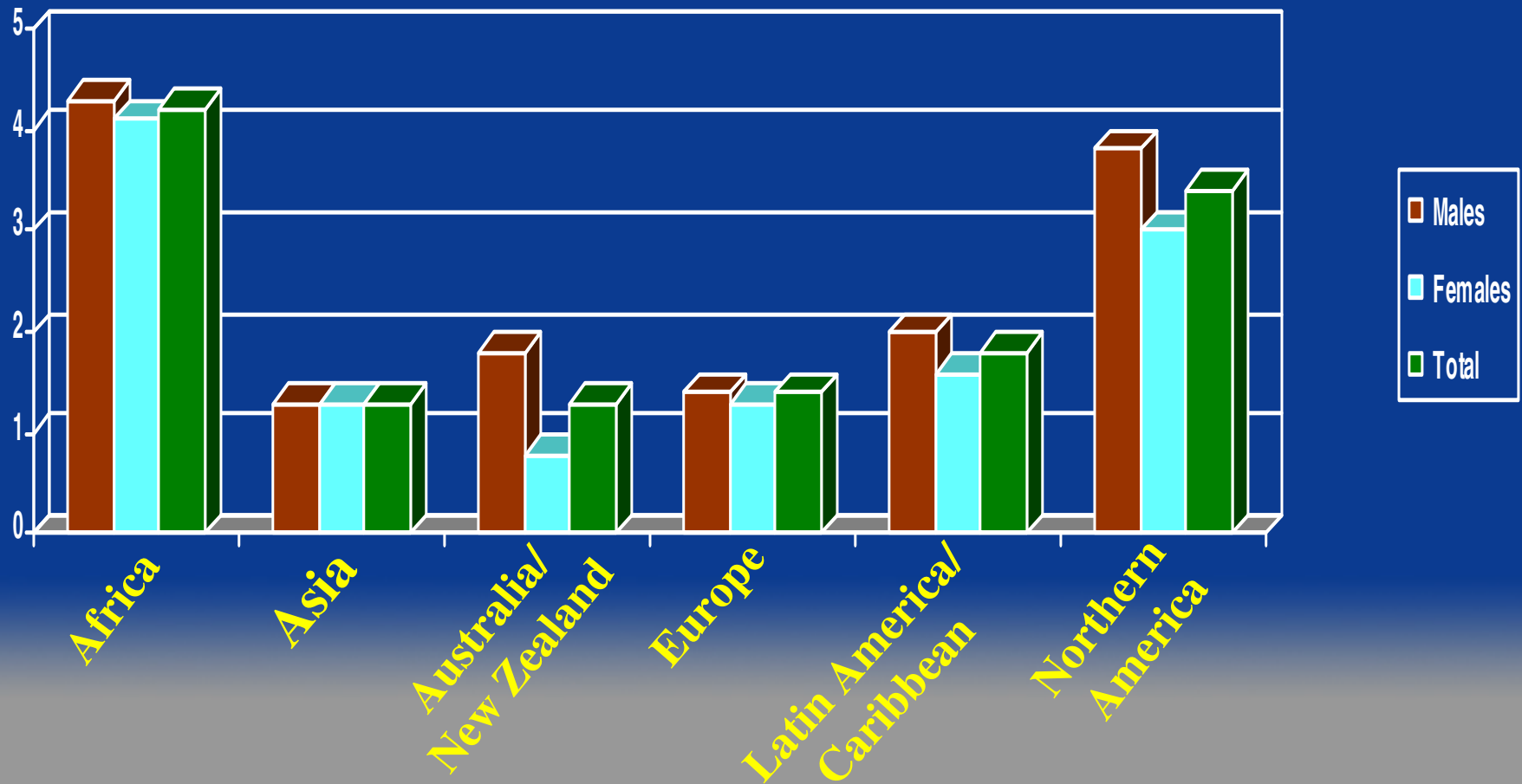
Definition of Child Maltreatment

Child maltreatment can be defined as any act or series of acts of commission or omission by a parent or other caregiver that results in harm, potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child's health, survival, development or dignity. This definition encompasses:

- u physical abuse
- u sexual abuse
- u neglect or negligent treatment
- u emotional or psychological abuse
- u commercial or other forms of exploitation

The Magnitude of Child Maltreatment in Developing Countries

Homicide Rates* Among 0-4 Year Olds by Region and Sex, 2002



*Rates per 100,000 population

Results of Selected Studies of Physical Child Maltreatment in Developing Countries

- 1 Egypt: 37% of children report being beaten/tied up by parents
- 1 Romania: Nearly half of parents admit to beating their children regularly
- 1 Ethiopia: 21% of urban and 65% of rural school children report bruises/swelling as a result of parental beatings
- 1 Kurdistan Province, Iran: 38.5% of adolescents report mild to severe injury from physical violence at home

Incidence (%) of Mothers Reporting Use of Harsh Physical Punishment in Past 6 Months, WorldSAFE Study

	Chile	Egypt	Rural India	Philippines	USA
Hit with an object (not on buttocks)	4	26	36	21	4
Kicked	0	2	10	6	0
Burned	0	2	1	0	0
Beat	0	25	--	3	0
Threatened with knife/gun	0	0	1	1	0
Choked	0	1	2	1	0

Source: Runyan et al., World Report on Violence and Health, WHO, 2002

Lifetime Prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse in High Mortality, Developing Regions of the World

	Female %	Male %
Africa (High Mortality)	21.3	9.6
Africa (Very High Mortality)	42.7	29.8
Latin America/Caribbean	13.3	20.0
Eastern Mediterranean	28.0	11.5
Southeast Asia	67.7	35.0

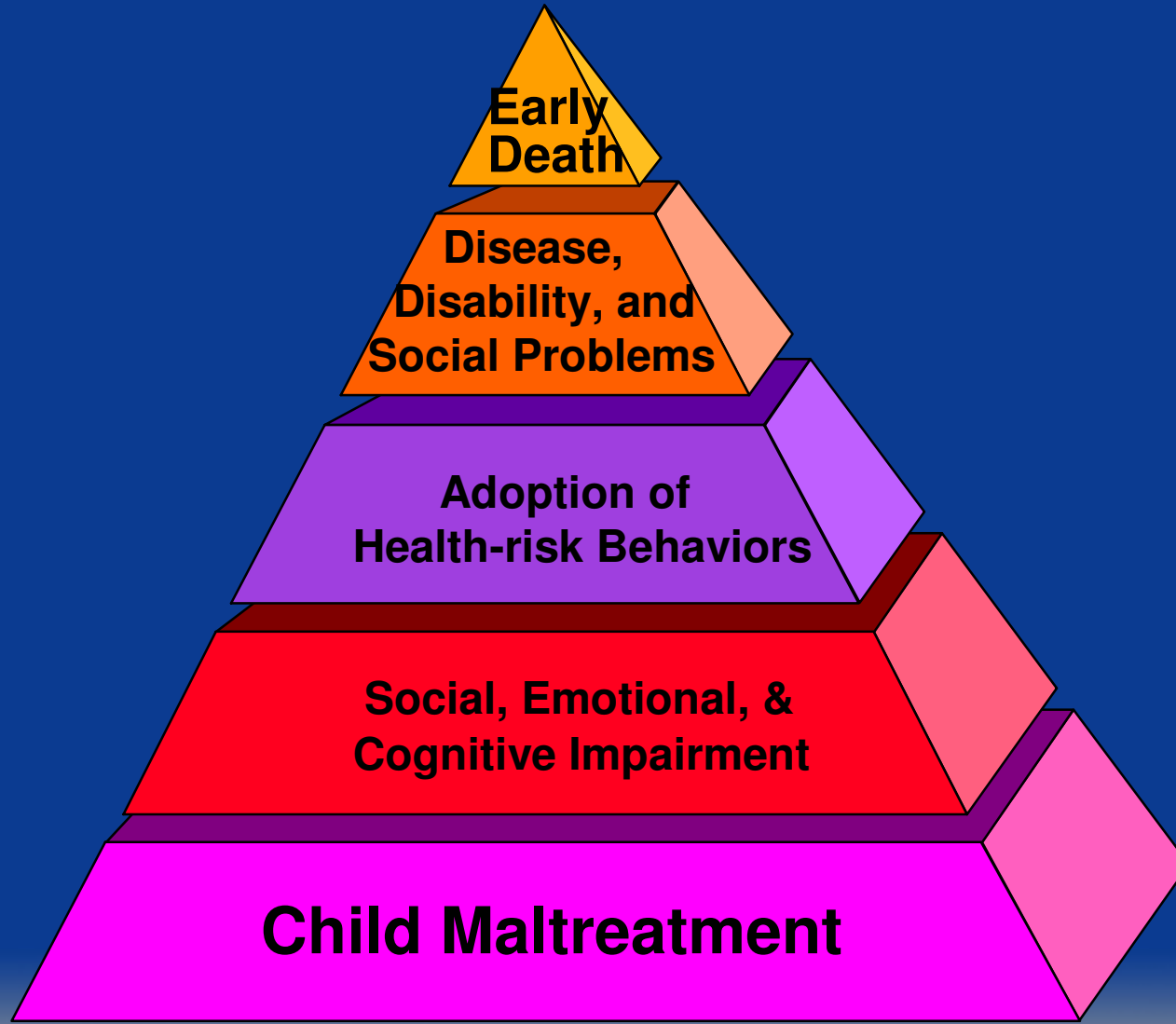
Source: Andrews et al., Child Sexual Abuse, WHO, 2004

The Science Base supporting the Impact of Child Maltreatment on Health

Death



Birth



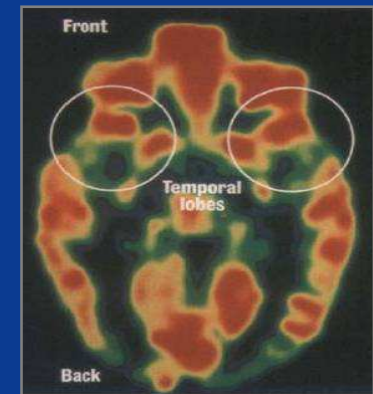
**The Influence of Child Maltreatment
Throughout Life**

Strong Scientific Foundation Documenting Linking Child Maltreatment and Health

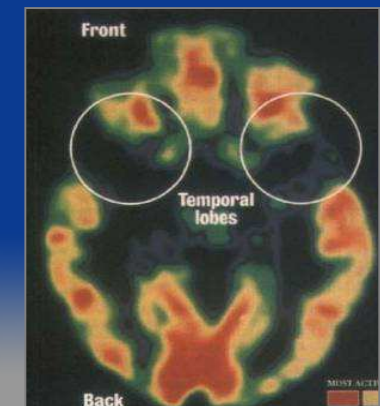
- 1 IOM/National Research Council Committee on integrating the Science of Early Childhood Development (From Neurons to Neighborhoods)**
- 1 MacArthur Research Network on Early Experience and Brain Development**
- 1 National Scientific Council on the Developing Child (NSCDC) www.developingchild.net**

Toxic Stress Damages Brain Architecture

- 1 Excessive and repeated stress causes the release of chemicals that impair cell growth and interfere with the formation of healthy neural circuits in the brain
- 1 Toxic stress can damage the brain's stress response system and contribute to premature aging of the body



Healthy Brain



Abused Brain

Consequences of Child Maltreatment

Child Maltreatment

Health-risk behaviors

Sexual promiscuity
Sexual perpetration
Alcohol abuse
Illicit/injected drug use
Smoking
Behavior problems

Mental/Social Problems

PTSD
Depression
Anxiety
Eating disorders
Cognitive development
Unwanted pregnancy
Obesity
Repeat victimization

Disease and Injury conditions

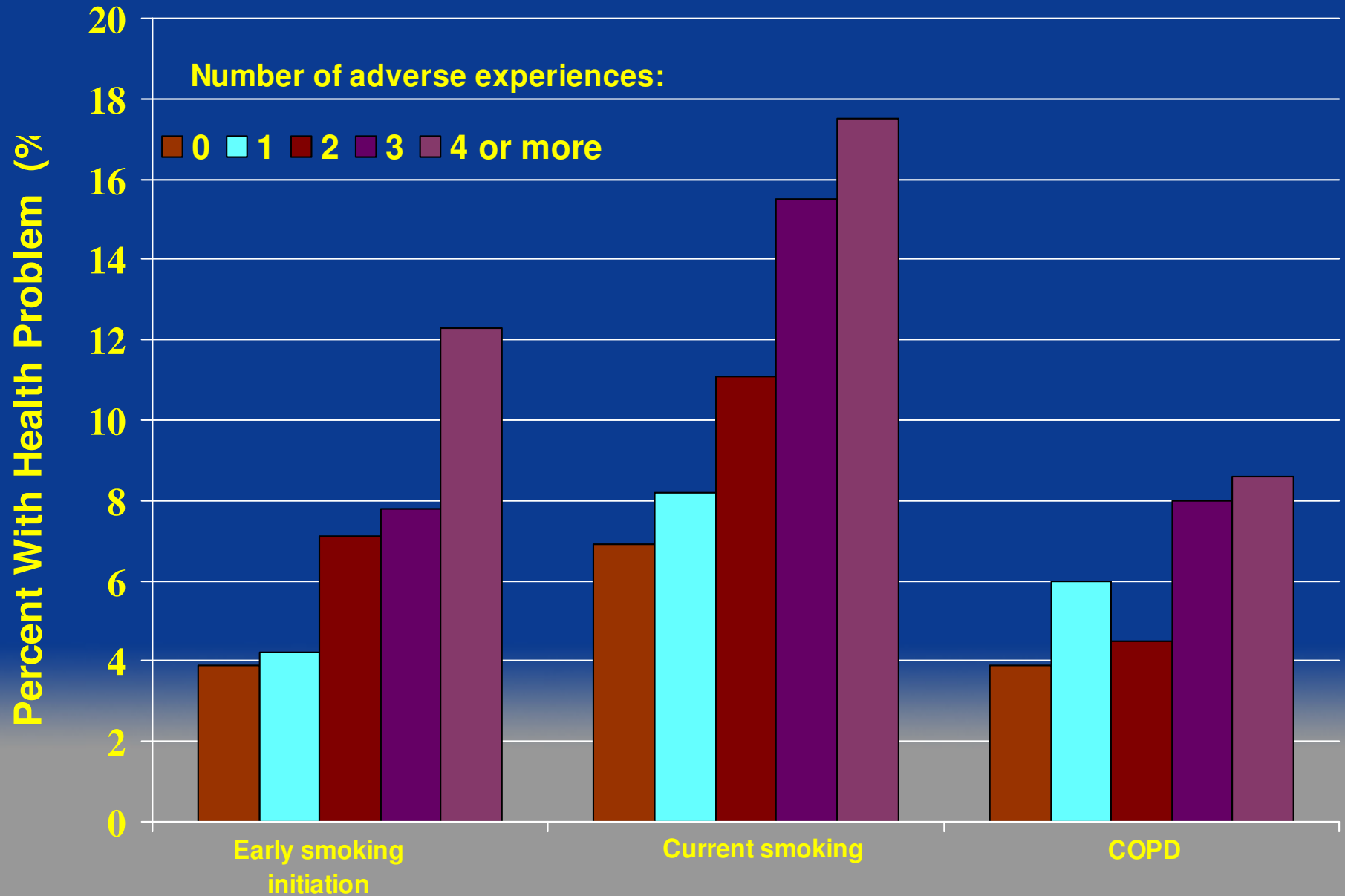
Ischemic heart disease
Diabetes
Stroke
Cancer
Suicide
Skeletal fractures
Chronic bronchitis/
emphysema
STDs (e.g., HIV)
Hepatitis

Epidemiologic Evidence of an Impact of Child Maltreatment on Health

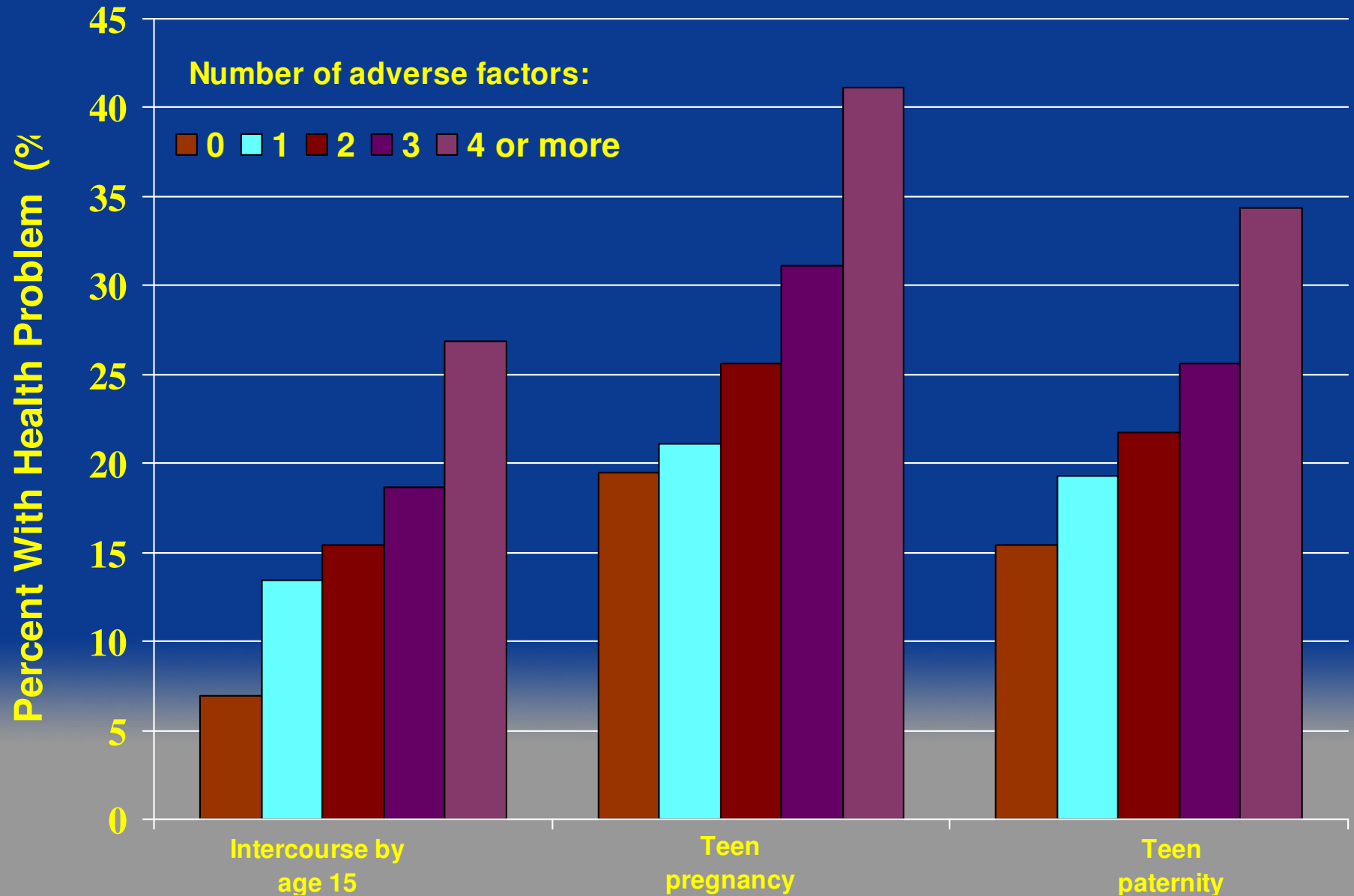
The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study

Adverse exposure	Prevalence (%)
Emotional abuse	10.5
Physical abuse	28.3
Sexual abuse	20.7
Household substance abuse	11.6
Household mental illness	19.4
Battered mother	12.7
Incarcerated household member	4.7
Parental separation or divorce	23.2
At least one ACE	60.5

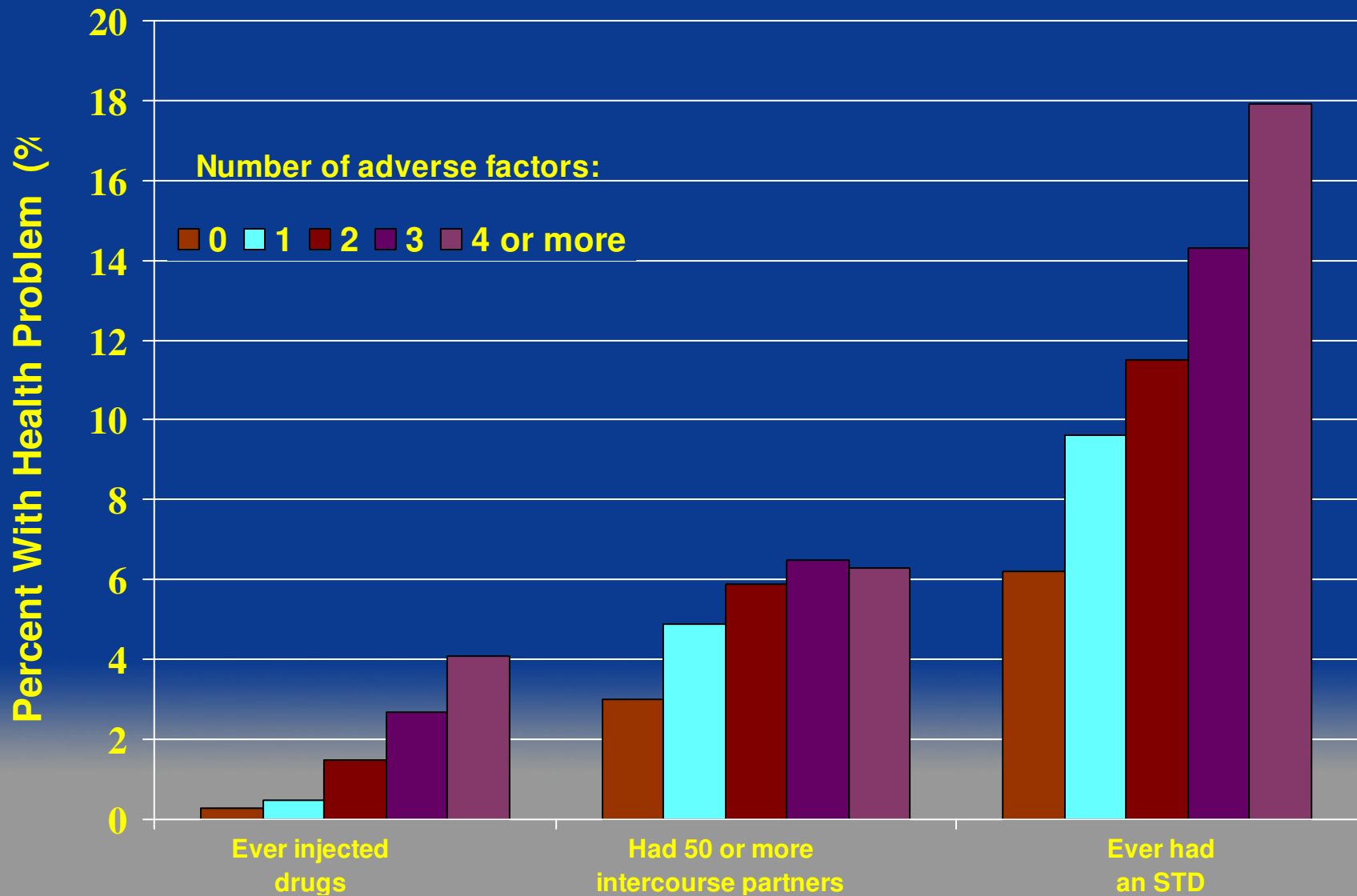
Relationship Between Number of ACEs and Smoking Behaviors and Smoking-Related Lung Disease



Number of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Teen Sexual Behaviors



ACE Score and HIV Risks



Fraction of Mental Disorders and Suicidal Behavior Attributable to Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) by Sex

	Female %	Male %
Depression	7-8%	4-5%
Alcohol Use/Dependence	7-8%	4-5%
Drug Use/Dependence	7-8%	4-5%
Panic Disorder	13%	7%
PTSD	33%	21%
Suicide Attempts	11%	6%

Source: Andrews et al., Child Sexual Abuse, WHO, 2004

Summary Points

- 1 **By all available measures child maltreatment (CM) is highly prevalent in developing countries**
- 1 **CM has a powerful influence on health and human capital through its influence on brain architecture**
- 1 **CM creates an enormous drag on social and economic development of developing countries**
- 1 **Interventions that are effective for preventing CM in developing countries will have enormous long-term economic benefits**

“...a powerful way to change the world is to make it better for kids.”

Jack P. Shonkoff

Disclaimer

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