

**EU SAFETY CONFERENCE, 3-4 October 2019 - Luxembourg**

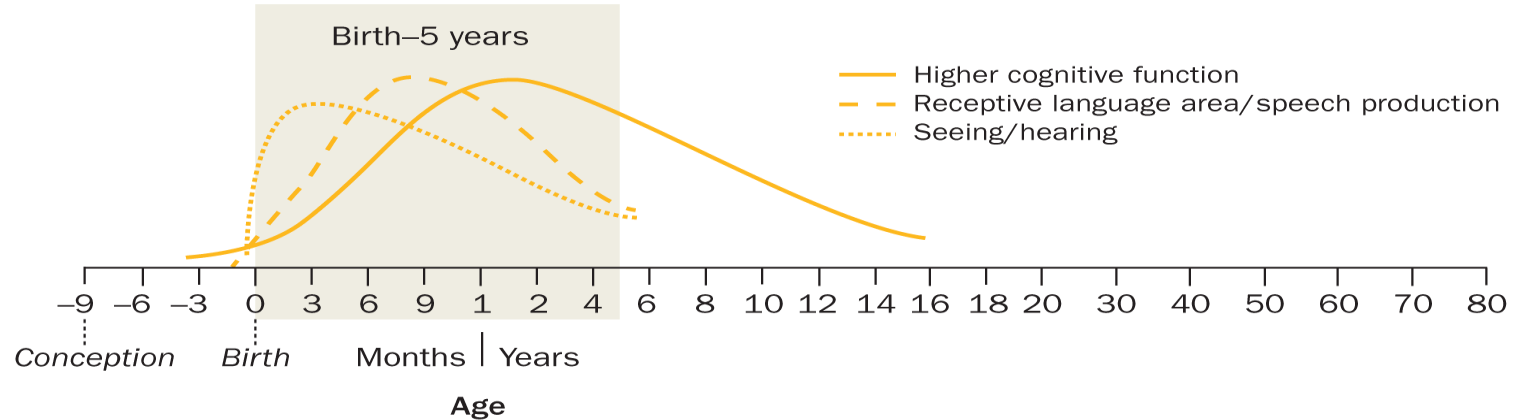
***Research for enhancing impact of strategies and Actions***

**RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH CHILD  
DEVELOPMENT AND WELL-BEING  
WITHIN THE ECOLOGICAL MODEL**

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# A history of your brain:

## Synapse formation in the brain



**Formation of cognitive and non-cognitive skills takes place mainly in the first 4 years.**

# Brain Development and Attachment

An infant needs connection to a caregiver in order to organize the brain's functions in the moment, and to allow it to develop properly over time.



Failure to receive the consistent, repetitive, positive, dependable and appropriate attention of the primary caretaker is the premier neurological insult.

# Ecological Model for understanding and preventing violence against children

## SOCIETAL

- Rapid social change
- Economic inequality
- Gender inequality
- Policies that increase inequalities
- Poverty
- Weak economic safety nets
- Legal and cultural norms that support violence
- Inappropriate access to firearms
- Fragility due to conflict/post-conflict or natural disaster

## COMMUNITY

- Concentrated poverty
- High crime levels
- High residential mobility
- High unemployment
- Local illicit drug trade
- Weak institutional policies
- Inadequate victim care services
- Physical environment situational factors

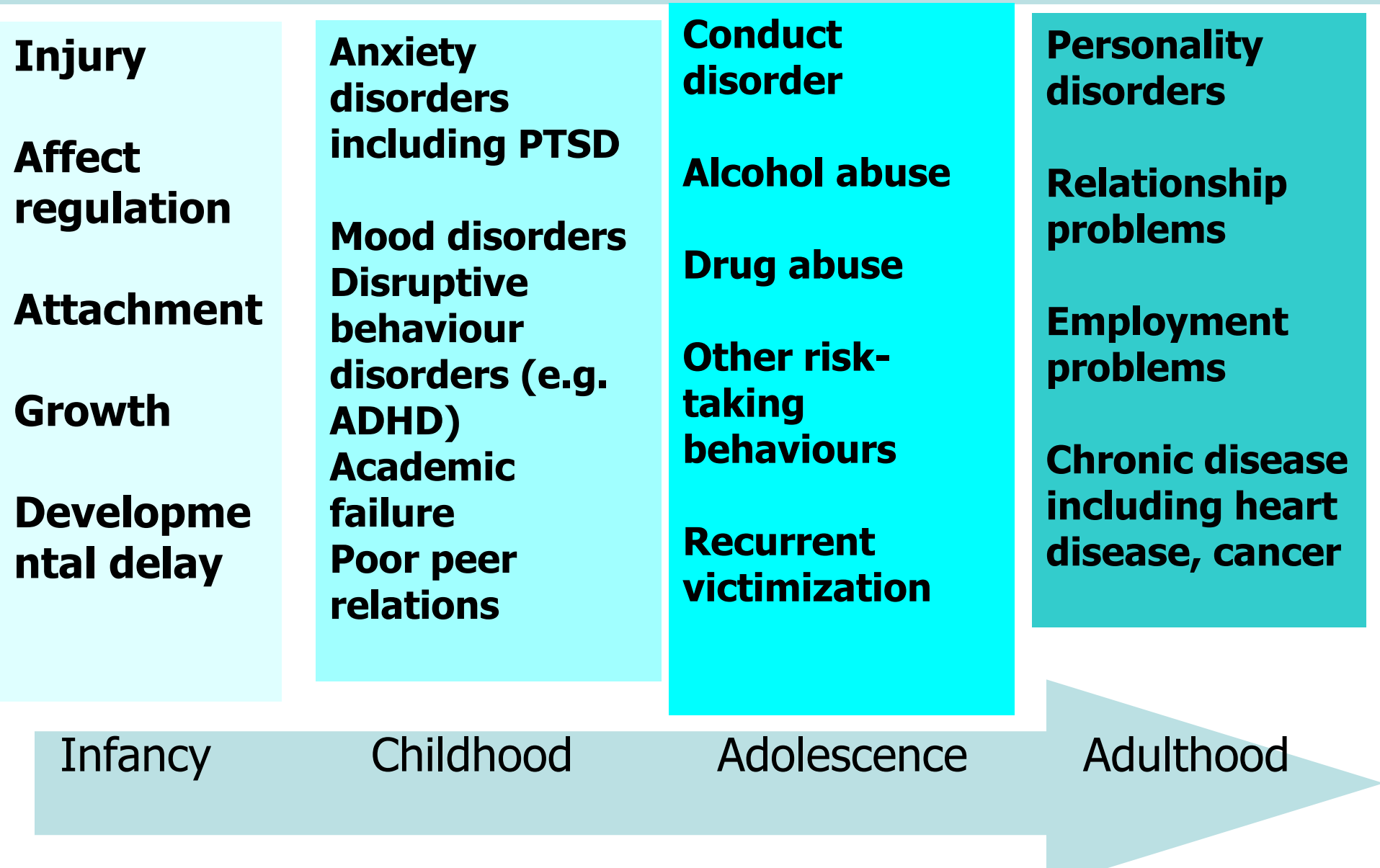
## RELATIONSHIP

- Poor parenting practices
- Marital discord
- Violent parental conflict
- Early and forced marriage
- Low socio-economic household status
- Friends that engage in violence

## INDIVIDUAL

- Sex
- Age
- Income
- Education
- Disability
- Victim of child maltreatment
- History of violent behaviour
- Alcohol/substance abuse
- Psychological/personality disorder

# Impairment across lifespan



# Physical abuse, neglect and corporal punishment ACE study 2013/MICS 2011

ACEs (during the first 18 years of life)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)
Physical abuse	22.3	20.2	21.1
Physical neglect	26.3	15.5	20.0
Physical (corporal) punishment	73.5	72.0	72.4

CHILD PROTECTION	Macedonian settlements (%)	Roma settlements (%)
Violent discipline	69.3	82
Marriage before the age of 15 among women age 15-49 years	1.4	11.9
Marriage before the age of 18 among women age 20-49 years	10.7	47
Attitudes toward domestic violence among women age 15-49 years	14.5	25.4

# Material and methods

## Study design

- Community household survey
- Face-to –face interview

701 household members  
at national level

## Methods and measurement

- Beliefs and attitudes  
about disciplining  
method in raising  
children

Physical and  
psychologically violent  
practices

Sample structure					
Ethnicity					
Number of children in household	Macedonian	Albanian	Roma	Other	Total
one	274 (39,1%)	65 (9,3%)	1 (,1%)	9 (1,3%)	349 (49,8%)
two	233 (33,2%)	63 (9,0%)	4 (,6%)	8 (1,1%)	308 (43,9%)
three	14 (2,0%)	17 (2,4%)	6 (,9%)	2 (,3%)	39 (5,6%)
four and more	0	4 (,6%)	1 (,1%)	0	5 (,7%)
Total	521 (74,3%)	149 (21,3%)	12 (1,7%)	19 (2,7%)	701 (100,0%)



# Attitudes and beliefs for CP

	Professional group (%)	Parents/care-givers group (%)
<b>Attitudes</b>		
Slapping/spanking are effective methods	12.9	18.9
A parent has the right to discipline their child in any way they believe is right	32.5	62.6
No one has the right to tell a parent how to raise the child	10.4	44.6
<b>Beliefs</b>		
It is justified for a parent to hit a child (in at least one situation)	35.4	57
It is not justified to hit a child (in any situation)	59.6	35.3

# Use of physical and psychological abuse – parenting practice

## Physical abuse

Correlated with:

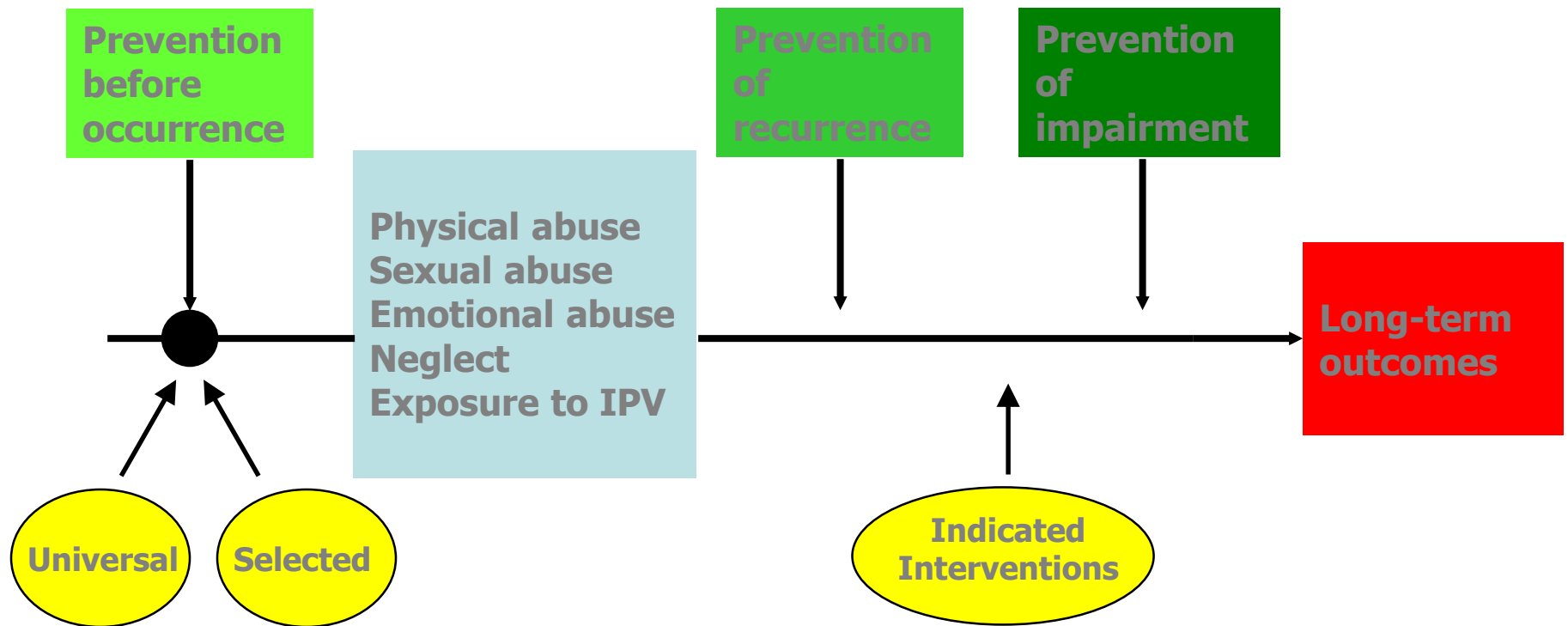
- negative parental attitudes,
- cultural norms,
- indicators of affluence (owning computers in the household),
- family being able to travel out of the country),
- age when the first child was born.

## Psychological abuse

Correlated with: negative parental attitudes, cultural norms,

- number of children at age of 2–14 years in the household,
- work status over the last 12 months of the parent/caregiver,
- child possessing his/her own room,
- household monthly income,
- Possessing computers in the household,
- family being able to travel out of the country, age when your first child was born.

# Prevention points



(MacMillan et al., 2009)

# CONCLUSIONS

1. There is a very high prevalence of violent disciplining practices in the country.
2. There is a need for parenting programs universal and selected.
3. Three positive parenting programs have been implemented, and evaluation is required.