

Environmental Influences

How do the Interactions between Personal Characteristics and the Micro- and Macro-Level Environments Work?

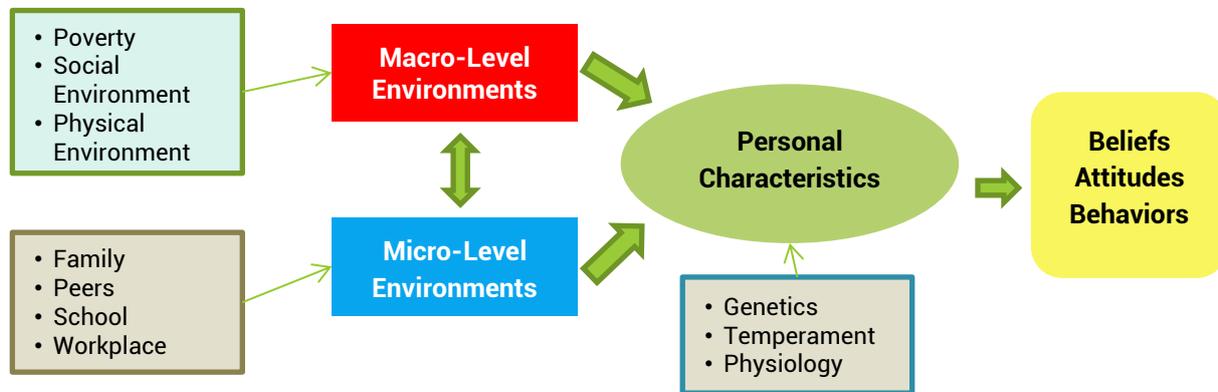


Figure 1 Etiology Model

MICRO-LEVEL Influence

PARENTS and FAMILIES:

- Nurture children and keep them safe
- Instill social and emotional regulatory skills
- Teach children about sharing and reciprocity
- Reinforce accepted norms, values, and age- and gender-specific behaviors of the community/society

Parenting and family continue to be important through adolescence when youth have more autonomy and opportunities for risky behaviors.

Peer relationships are influential socializing experiences that affect attitudes, skills, and “normative” behaviors.

After the family, the next major socialization agents in a society are **SCHOOLS and/or other education-related groups** (such as guilds or apprenticeships) and **RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS**.

They provide the needed skills to transition from childhood into the expected adult roles important to any society and reinforce societal values, norms, and acceptable behaviors.

Understanding Substance Use Prevention

MACRO-LEVEL Influence

General Environments are social and cultural environment, poverty, and physical environment. Environmental Prevention includes to restricts access to substances, especially for youth, to modify the context of use, and promote non-substance use norms.

The social environment of the larger community influences beliefs, attitudes and behaviors through:

- Shaping social norms
- Influencing beliefs about the risks and consequences of using psychoactive substances
- Effecting stress responses
- Enforcing patterns of social control

Epidemiology and Prevention Targets

Descriptive epidemiologic research findings have prevention implications, for instance;

- Where to target interventions?
- What substances to target?
- To whom should interventions be targeted?
- When to target the interventions?
- What should be the mediators of the prevention intervention (objectives and messages of prevention)?

Analytic epidemiology looks at etiology as applied to prevention. Understanding interactions between vulnerability and micro- and macro-environments has prevention implications as follows;

- Identifying most at-risk **POPULATIONS**
- Identifying points of intervention: **Developmental stage and Settings**

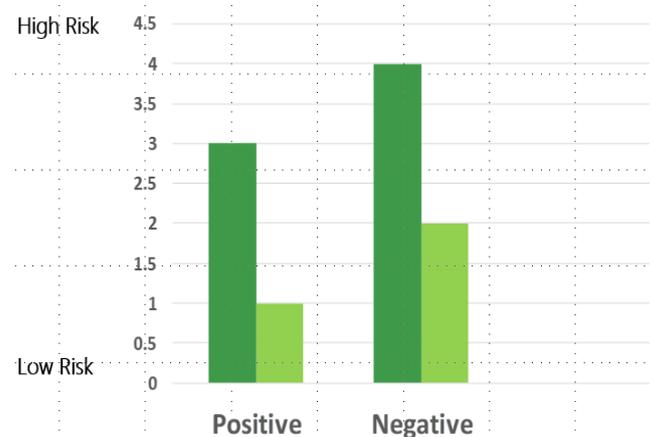


Figure 2 . Interaction between Personal Characteristics (Vulnerability) and Environment

Prevention Intervention targets the individual directly, which directly engage in the socialization process, thus becoming socialization agents themselves, and the individual's micro- and macro-level environments or may either train socialization agents, such as parents and teachers

- Consider characteristics of the target: age, gender, geographic location, etc.
- Select an appropriate and feasible setting: schools, workplace, etc.