

PSY 372

RISK and PROTECTIVE FACTORS

During class on Tuesday, we will be working with the information summarized in Table 4-2 from your text. Please come to class prepared to participate in the below activity. Although you will be assigned to a group and specific section of the table (see following pages), you are ultimately accountable for understanding information from the entire table.

Learning Objective: After this activity you will be able to describe several key findings about the nature of risk/protective factors, how they operate over time, and implications of these findings for prevention programs.

Preparation: Read chapter 4. Pages 81-91 will be particularly helpful for this activity.

Directions: The class will be divided into 3 groups of students. Each group will be responsible for explaining a section of Table 4-2 pertaining to risk and protective factors and their implications for prevention. After discussing the section of material you have been assigned in your small groups, each group should:

- (1) Tell the class which finding you were assigned (left column of Table 4-2).
- (2) Describe each of the three bullet points associated this finding (left column)
- (3) Create and provide an example of each bullet point.
- (4) Have the class identify some implications of the finding for prevention programs.

Grading. This assignment is worth 2 point. Each group will be given a score 0-2 based on the quality of their presentation. Each member of the group should be actively involved.

GROUP 1: Professor Mahoney

Findings from Studies of Risk and Protective Factors	Implications for the Design and Evaluation of Prevention Programs
Risk and protective factors operate at multiple levels of analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High-risk groups for prevention programs can be identified at multiple levels, including individuals, families, and communities• Preventive interventions can be directed to change malleable risk and protective factors at multiple levels of analysis

GROUP 2: Taz, Cindy, Jacki, Becca

The effects of risk and protective factors are correlated and cumulative

- Risk factors tend to be positively correlated with each other and negatively correlated with protective factors
- Risk factors tend to have a cumulative effect on the development of mental, emotional, and behavioral problems
- Protective factors have a cumulative effect to reduce the development of mental, emotional, and behavioral problems

- Children in high-risk groups are likely to have multiple risk factors
- Prevention programs may be most effective when they impact multiple risk and protective factors
- Evaluation of prevention trials may indicate which risk or protective factors account for program effects, leading to more efficient prevention strategies over time

GROUP 3: Marcus, Alena, Mikayla, Monica

Risk and protective factors have effects on both specific mental, emotional, and behavioral problems and on multiple problems

- Some risk and protective factors have general effects to impact multiple mental, emotional, and behavioral outcomes
- Some risk and protective factors have specific effects on single MEB disorders
- Specific effects of risk and protective factors may be found in subgroups of gender or age

- Preventive interventions with high-risk groups may impact multiple outcomes
- Preventive interventions with general risk factors should be designed to identify multiple outcomes across developmental stages
- Preventive interventions can target risk factors specific to particular MEB disorders

GROUP 4: Emily, Liz, Jordan, Alyssa

Risk and protective factors influence each other over time

- Risk and protective factors are dynamically related to each other over time. They may influence the occurrence of later risk and protective factors
 - Protective factors may have additive effects, moderation effects, or mediation effects
 - Risk and protective factors at one level of analysis affect those at another level of analysis
 - Evaluation of preventive trials can inform theory concerning the effects of risk and protective factors
 - Prevention programs can have effects across levels of analysis. For example, risk at the biological, individual, or family level can be modified by interventions at different levels, including social policy interventions
 - Evaluation of prevention programs should test for mediating and moderating effects
 - Prevention programs can have promotion effects to strengthen positive outcomes, and promotion programs can have preventive effects to decrease problem outcomes
 - Prevention programs can impact chains of effects of risk and protective factors, leading to long-term effects across developmental periods
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