# **Psychological & Physical Stressors and Children's Respiratory Health**

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### Rapid Growth and Development During Pregnancy & Early Childhood







How does toxic stress get 'into the body' to impact respiratory health?

## **BIOLOGY OF STRESS**

 The stress reaction is neither good nor bad in itself

- Stress is useful when it protects us in times of danger or helps us to adapt in times of change.
- Can be harmful when it overwhelms our ability to cope

#### Stress Performance Connection



Wright et al, Thorax 1998 Wright et al, Cur Opin in All Clin Immunol 2005 Wright RJ, Biol Psychol 2010

# Interactions



**Independent impact of psychological stressors?** 

# Many sources of stress

- Acute life events:
  - -Recent life experiences (job loss, divorce)
  - -Remote life experiences (trauma)
- Chronic strains:
  - -Persistent life difficulties (financial strain)
  - –Role strains
  - -Racism / Discrimination (societal)
  - Community-wide strain / Ecologic level strain (e.g., community violence)

# Maternal stress experienced across specific NLEs domains



#### **Prenatal Maternal NLEs Domains**

## **Maternal Stress and Child Repeated Wheeze: Dose-Response**



Chiu Y-H M, et al. Am J Resp Crit Care Med 2012

Log Odds (centered) of Repeated Wheeze

#### **Pre-Postnatal Stress and Asthma by 6 years**



## **Pre/Postnatal Stress and Lung Function**

**Prenatal-Postnatal PM2.5 and FEV1** 



#### Prenatal-Postnatal PM2.5 and FVC



#### **Prenatal-Postnatal Stress**

## Early life toxic stress is <u>literally</u> taking our breath away?



# **Family/Community Violence**



#### Children Reflect What They See – Emotionally <u>and</u> Physiologically

## Prenatal Community Violence, TRAP (BC) and Repeated Wheeze



\* Adjusted for gender, season of birth, maternal race, education level, atopy, and home cockroach allergen.

# **Interactions?**

Psychological stressors enhance effects of chemical/physical toxins

Allergens and Prenatal NLEs Peters J, et al., Allergy 2012; 67:545-51.

Air Pollution and Community Violence Chiu Y-HM, et al., JACI 2014, 133:713-22.



As quality of care decreases, young children become highly stress vulnerable Sensitive, responsive, supportive care "buffers" or protects young children from experiencing elevated stress hormone levels



# Buffering effect of nurturing parenting/caregiving environment

Maternal Intimate Partner Violence and Increased Asthma Incidence in Children Buffering Effects of Supportive Caregiving

Shakira Franco Suglia, MS, ScD; Michelle Bosquet Enlow, PhD; Antje Kullowatz, PhD; Rosalind J. Wright, MD, MPH

Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med 2009; 163:244-50.