

“Our city is doomed if the horrifying actions of our young people are allowed to continue”



Found on tablet in biblical city of Ur (present day Iraq)

“Young people love living the luxurious life: they disrespect their parents, talk loud in front of company, eat up the good food, and terrify their teachers!”



Herodotus, Roman Historian

“Youth are prone to desire, and ready to carry out any desire into action. They change often, they are fickle, and their desires are transitory and strong. Young people have high aspirations because they’ve never been humbled by the experiences of life. If there is one fault youth have, it’s that they carry everything too far, whether it’s love, hate, or any other passion”



Aristotle

“I wish young people could just skip over the years between 10-23...either that or sleep their way through those years. All that happens during that time is getting girls pregnant, hurting old people, stealing, and fighting”



Shakespeare, A Winter's Tale

“This is terrible! On just about any street corner of New York City, teenagers can purchase pornographic materials, and even rubbers to use for immoral purposes”



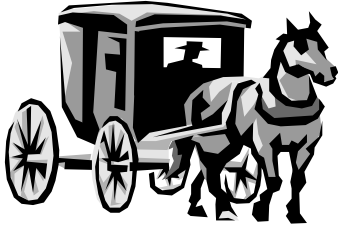
Andrew Comstock, early 20th Century

“Aggressive impulses are intensified to the point of complete unruliness, hunger becomes voracity, and the ‘naughtiness’ of the elementary school child turns into the criminal behavior of adolescence. Habits of cleanliness acquired during childhood give way to pleasure in dirt and disorder, and instead of modesty and sympathy we find exhibitionistic tendencies, brutality, and cruelty to animals”



Ana Freud

Pre-school responses to the 19th Century Youth Crisis



Problems of 19th Century urban youth were the precondition for “inventing” modern adolescence in America & the rise of secondary schooling



1830s and 1840s: growth of urban slums

Street Gangs

“...by the end of the 19th Century, juvenile gangs controlled many of the streets of Baltimore, Boston, Newark, and New Orleans. A torrent of youth criminality was sweeping the land”.

- 40 Little Thieves
- Lady Locusts
- 4th Avenue Tunnel gang
- Baxter Street Dudes

By early 1900s:

- “disregard for law is fast becoming an American characteristic”
- “the shame of the cities”

Child-saving movement

- Sunday schools
- charitable organizations
- “orphan trains”
- Boys Town
- YMCA & Boys Clubs
- scouting
- parks & playgrounds movement

Rise of the American H.S.

- In 1900, less than 8% graduated h.s.
- in 1920, 1/3 of 14-16 year olds in h.s.
- after Depression h.s. becomes focal point of teenager's lives



“In secondary schools, the years separating physical maturation and full adult capacity for dealing with the world would now be isolated, and youth would now be temporarily removed from the rough and tumble of life.”

Adolescent Physical & Psychosocial Development

Adolescence Process & Purpose

- 1 : the state or process of growing up
 - 2 : the period of life from puberty to maturity...
 - 3 : a stage of development...prior to maturity
- Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary

It's a
journey...



**“Adolescent development consists
of physical, cognitive, and socio-
emotional changes that take place
over time and in historical and
social settings”**

--Joan Lipsitz

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**Universal vs. Unique
Features of Adolescence?**

Puberty is a process leading to physical and sexual maturation that involves development of secondary sexual characteristics as well as growth and changes in body composition



Only time in life when physical change is as dramatic as infancy

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Adolescent development is a Process

EARLY (10-14)

"Am I Normal?"



MIDDLE (15-17)

"Who am I?"

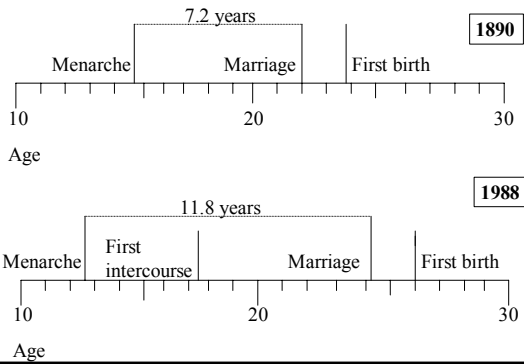


LATE (18-21)

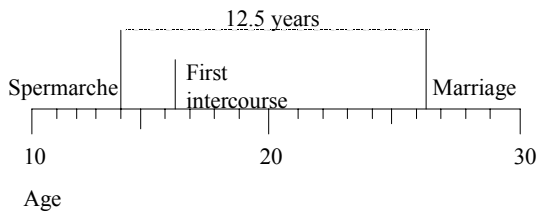
"Where am I going?"

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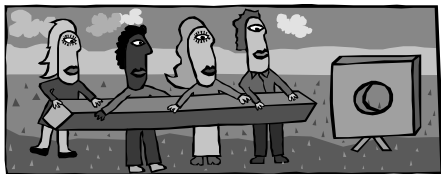
Interval Between Onset of Puberty & Marriage--Women, 1890 and 1988



Interval Between Onset of Puberty & Marriage--Men, 1988



Variability in Pubertal Development



- Onset
- Duration

Tanner Staging



Milestones



- growth spurt earlier than boys
- breast development
- pubic hair
- menarche
- growth spurt
- testicles & penis grow
- pubic hair
- facial hair
- spermathe

Why is pubertal development so important to the “psychosocial agenda” of adolescence?



“The basic developmental tasks of adolescence have remained constant over the past century but transformations in the nature of society have made their successful resolution more difficult for young people” Lawrence Steinberg

Logic of Adolescence in Contemporary Society

- age segregation & erosion of adult protection
- rolelessness & loss of purpose
- pseudomaturity & heightened risk

Cognitive Development

“Thinking in a New Key”



- Concrete to abstract
- If...then
- Alternatives
- Future perspective
- Gray areas
- Empathy & Perspective

Concrete to abstract



"Are you sexually active?"

*"No...I just have sex once in awhile"
"No...I only have sex with one person"
"No...I just lie there"*



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Generating alternatives? *Like a child in a candy store...*



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Imaginary Audience



"I feel embarrassed asking for condoms at the drugstore. It's as if everybody stops what they are doing and is looking at me, saying, 'I know what you are doing'"

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Personal Fable

*"I'm special. I'm unique"
"I can't possibly get an STI"*



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Gambler's Fallacy

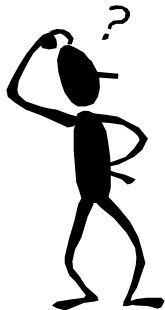


"I only fool around once in awhile. I'm pretty sure I can't catch something like that."



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Social/Emotional Development



Identity



- Am I normal?
- How do others see me?
- What am I good at?
- Where do I fit in?
- What do I believe?
- Where am I going?
- How will I get there?
- Who am I attracted to?
- Who am I?

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Independence

• Gradual movement away from family

• “De-satellization” to peer group



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“They don’t want you to disappear; they want you to be just around the corner when they need you”

—James Comer, M.D.



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Intimacy
"No man is an island"



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Most adolescents come through the journey okay