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YOUTH-NEX

CURRY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

The U.Va. Center to Promote Effective Youth Development

Quandaries for Promoting Health, Safety and Wellbeing of Young Adults

Patrick Tolan Ph.D.

Youth-Nex Center, University of Virginia

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Notable Characteristics



- Continuing but not Simply Linear Brain Development
- Consolidate/Choose Life Course Trajectory-Shifting Orderliness
- Heightened Risk-Serious/Dangerous Substance Use
- Morbidity-Accidents & Suicides, Chronic Disease
- Before and After 25 –Important Inflection Point
- Who and Where Is Good Information-Matrix



Prizing Independence and Certainty

Please Complete One or More of the Following:

- Education
 - Employment/Vocational Choice
 - Financial Independence
 - Marriage (or something like it)
 - Have Children (or promise of it)
- With few mistakes
 - Not too soon
 - For the rest of your life



The Developmental Theory/Quandary

All development is the same (there are universals)

Meaningful subgroup differences occur

Each person's development is unique

Need Basic Developmental- Contextual Understanding

- Diversity of Opportunity/Support Structure
- Normative vs. Health
- Self-Regulation, Responsibility, Connection, Identity
- Living in Changing World



Missing

- Sound Critically Formulated Framework
- Positive/Capability Approach
- Changing Nature of Work
- The Good Life instead of the Right Life
- Transition Rather Than Achievement of Independence
- Social Class Difference- Sharpening



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Swamp of Beliefs/Conjecture:





Immediate Opportunities

- ACA
- Reanalyze Longitudinal Studies/Archive Data Sets
- Health Behavior as Critical Responsibility-Protocols for Young Adults
- Models (International/Domestic)
- Media Use for Self-Management, Connection, Health, etc.---~~Divide~~



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Multiple Studies

- Multiple Cohort Historical Tracing
- Cross-National Comparisons
- Longitudinal Trajectory/Pathway Studies
- Collapsed Cohort Age-Graded Comparisons
- Intervention Studies
- Cost/Service System Analyses



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Research is Our Best Hope for Good Policy





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The facts are coming! The facts are coming!