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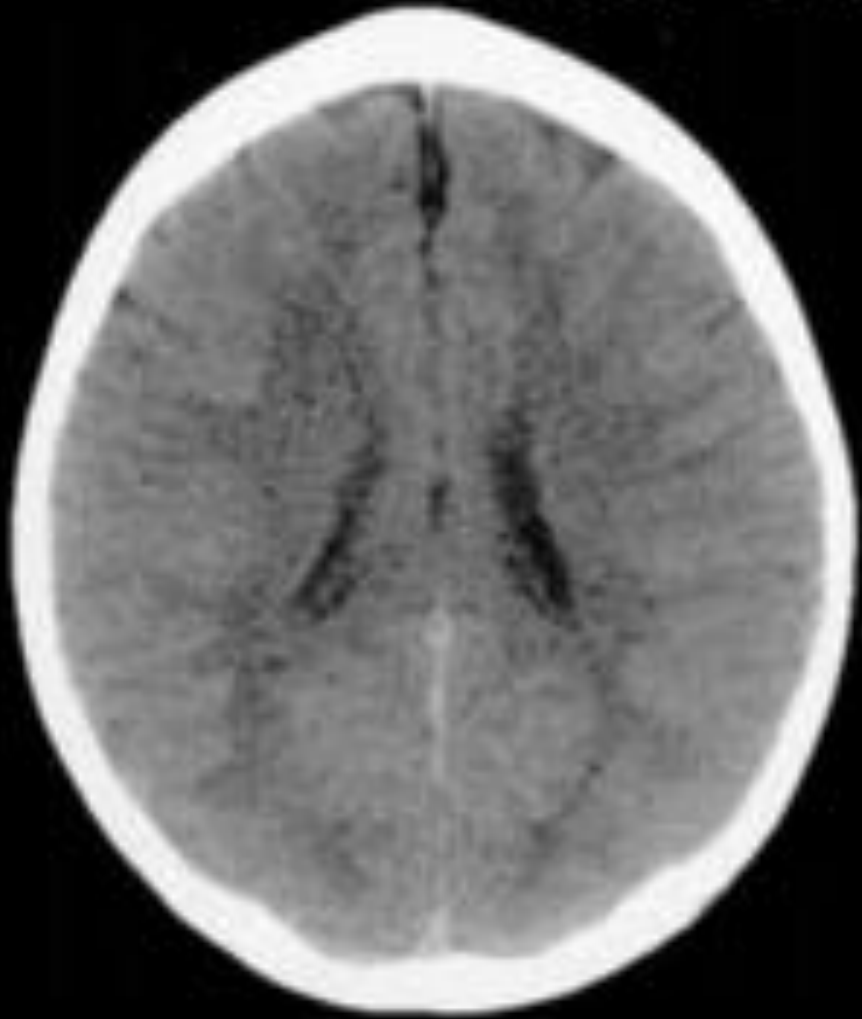
# Developmental Trauma: Implications for the Juvenile Justice System

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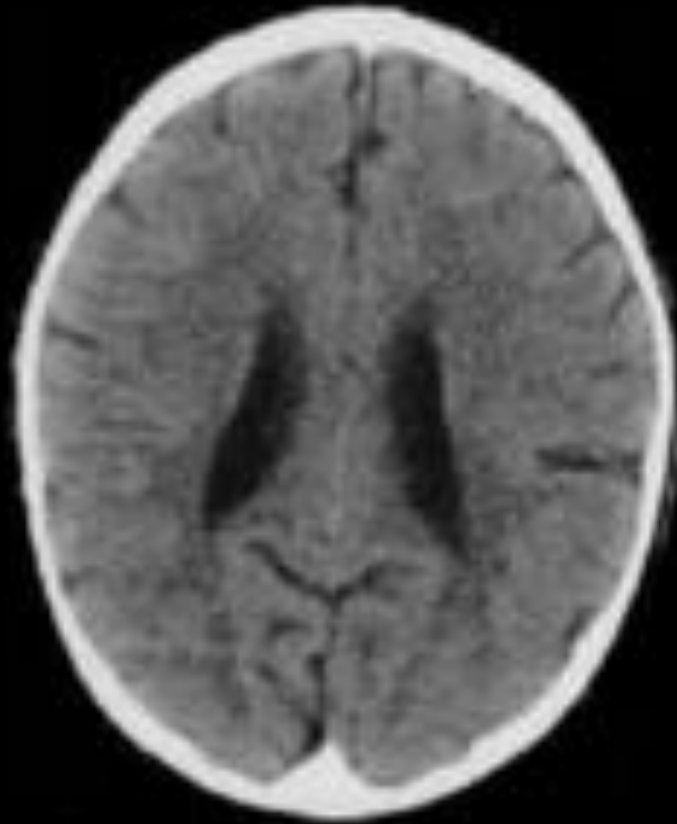


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## 3 Year Old Children



Normal



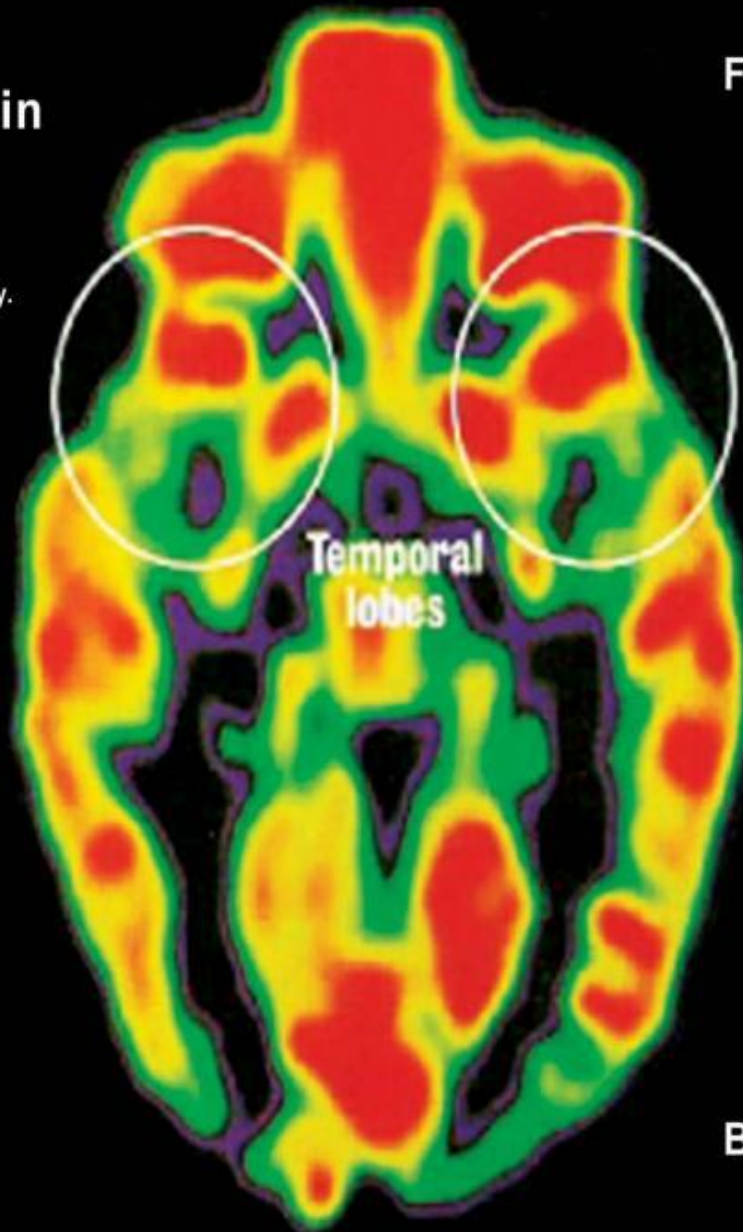
Extreme Neglect



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## Healthy Brain

This PET scan of the brain of a normal child shows regions of high (red) and low (blue and black) activity. At birth, only primitive structures such as the brain stem (center) are fully functional; in regions like the temporal lobes (top), early childhood experiences wire the circuits.

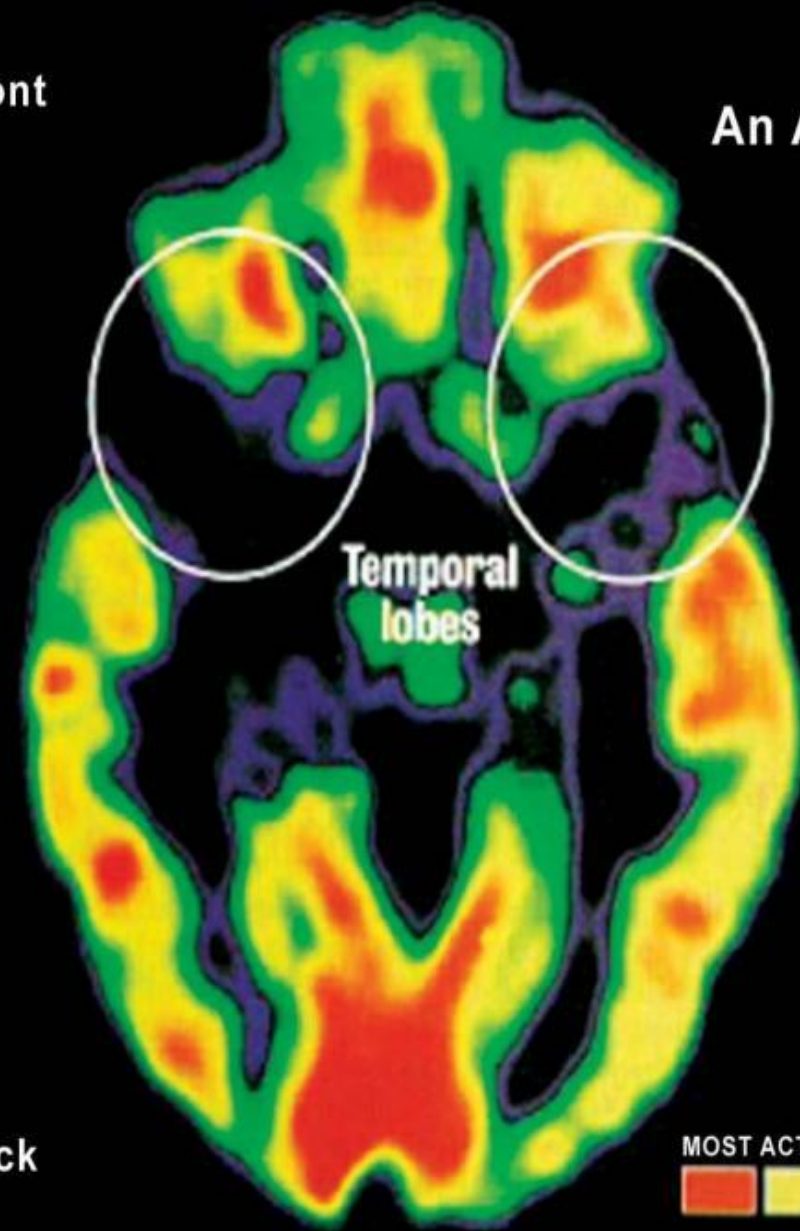


Front

Back

## An Abused Brain

This PET scan of the brain of a Romanian Orphan, who was institutionalized shortly after birth, shows the effect of extreme deprivation in infancy. The temporal lobes (top), which regulate emotions and receive input from the senses, are nearly quiescent. Such children suffer emotional and cognitive problems.





# Hippocampal Volume Reduction in PTSD



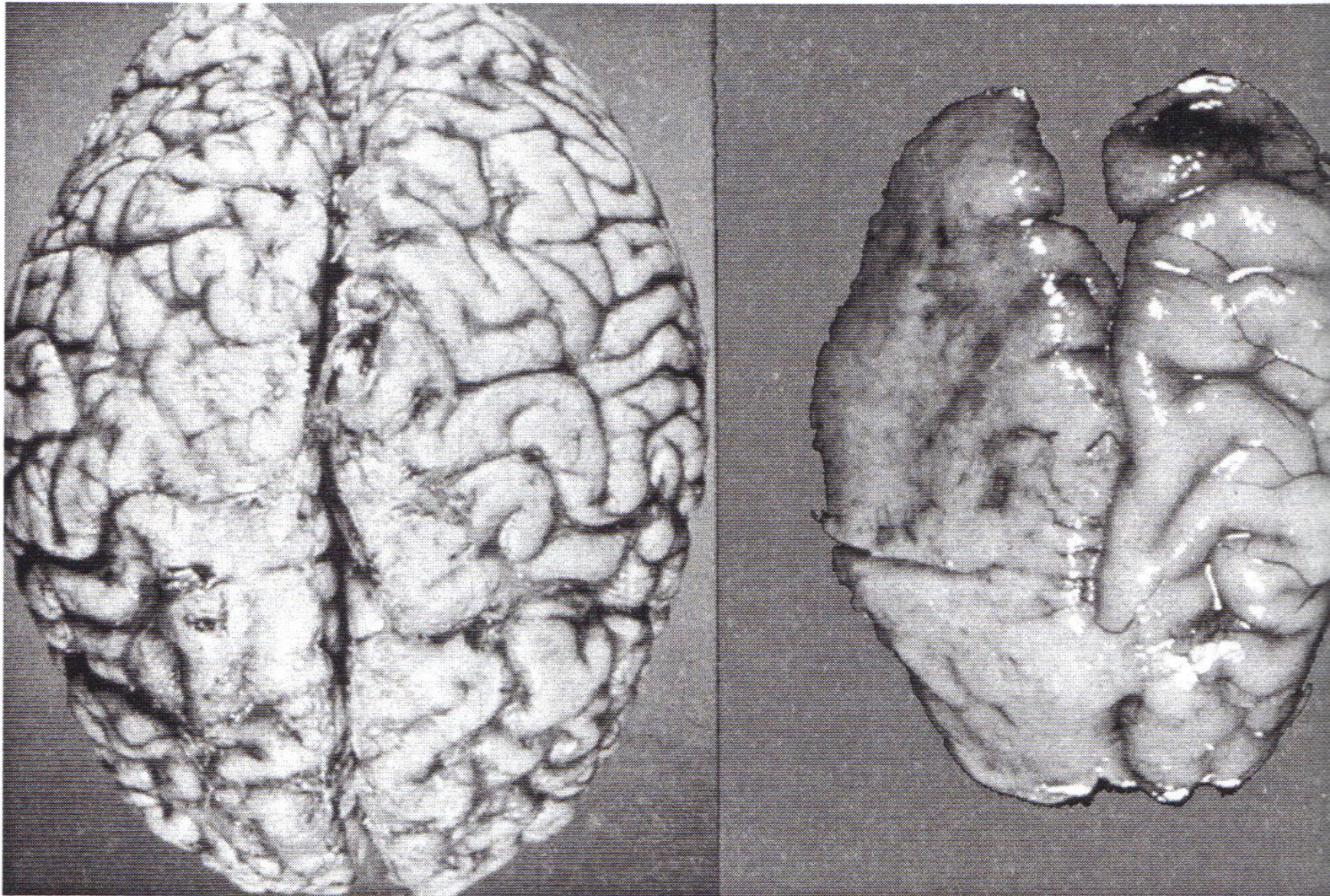
**NORMAL**



**PTSD**

MRI scan of the hippocampus in a normal control and patient with PTSD secondary to childhood abuse. The hippocampus, outlined in red, is visibly smaller in PTSD. Overall there was a 12% reduction in volume in PTSD.





6 week old baby  
“Normal” brain

6 week old baby  
“Fetal Alcohol Syndrome” brain

Figure 5. Brain: Normal/FAS. Photo courtesy of Sterling Clarren MD.

# FAS



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# Types of Trauma

- Acute
- Chronic
- Complex
- Neglect

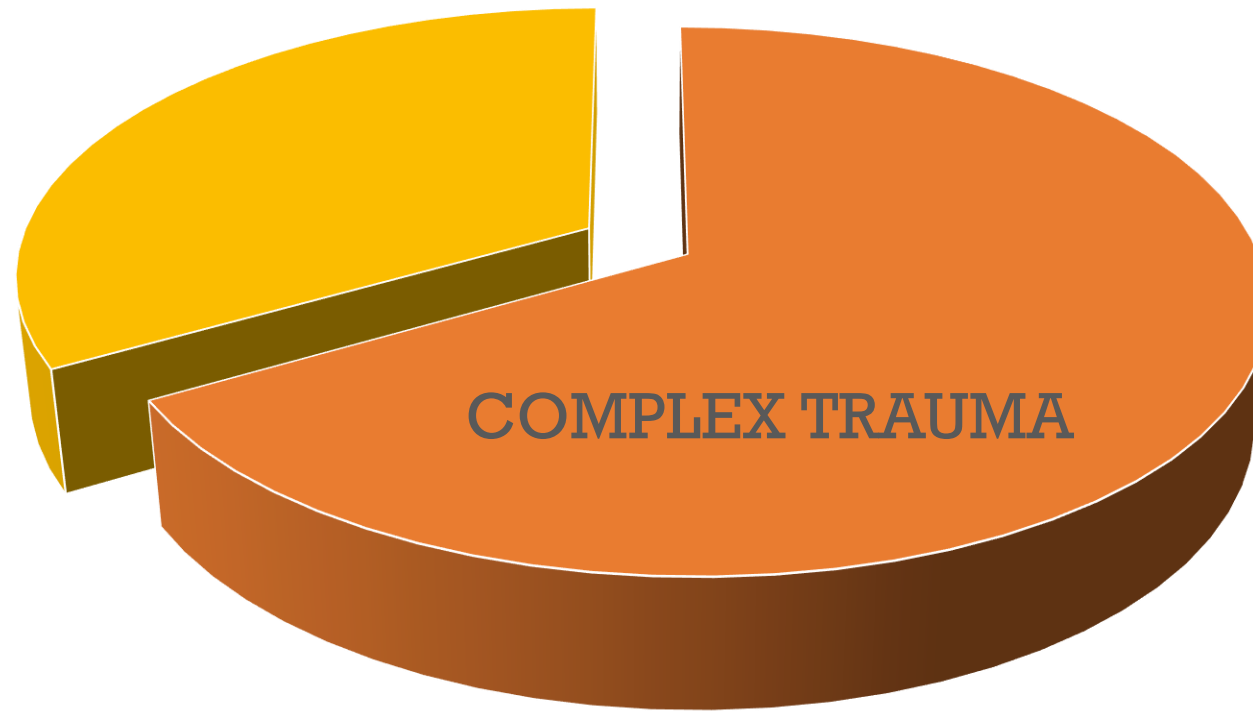


Developmental Trauma



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# Trauma within Juvenile Justice Population



Ford, J. D. Grasso, D. J., Hawke, J., & Chapman, J.F. (2013) Poly-victimization among juvenile Justice involved youths. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 37, 788-800.



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# Dysfunctional Behavior

Difficulty with Transitions

Difficulty in relationships

Control issues

Impulsive, risk taking

High anxiety

Emotional Dysregulation

Deficits in problem solving/coping skills



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# Key Systems Compromised

Reward/Motivation System

Distress Tolerance System

Executive System

Complex Trauma Treatment Network of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network. (2016) *Complex Trauma: In Juvenile Justice-Involved Youth*. Los Angeles, CA & Durham, NC: NCTSN.



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# Leon

Leon met two girls (ages 12 and 13) on the street after he had been drinking alcohol. He followed the two girls into their apartment complex after they rejected his advances and, after a physical confrontation, stabbed both of them to death with a table knife. He then raped, kicked, and stomped each of their bodies.



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# Leon

Leon has been convicted of a capital offense and his sentencing is fast approaching.

He is facing the death penalty or life without parole.

You would like to provide information about mitigating factors that may help make a decision between the two sentences.



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# Pertinent information

1. Cognitive Functioning
2. Common behaviors/symptoms of developmental trauma
3. Thorough knowledge of person's history
4. Treatment History
5. Results of any assessments completed throughout the person's life
6. Medical history



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# Putting it all together

What Bruce Perry was able to say in court:

1. ADHD and Conduct Disorder diagnosis confirmed
2. Emotional, Social, and Neurocognitive problems related to unintentional neglect
3. Alcohol is disinhibiting
4. There was no case to be made that he was not legally responsible
5. Could not deny that Leon was an ongoing danger to those around him



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