Psychological and neuroendocrinological sequelae of early social deprivation in institutionalized children in Romania

early experience, institutionalization, social deprivation developmental outcomes, adopted children. Worldwide, institutional rearing has been associated with delays in physical, behavioral, cognitive, and socio-emotional development (Ahmad & Mohamad, 1996; Ames, 1997; Benoit, Jocelyn, Moddeman, & Embree, 1996; Boostani & Tashakkori, 1982; Hostetter, Iverson, Thomas, McKenzie, Dole, & Johnson, 1991; Johnson, 2000; Kaler & Freeman, 1994; Rutter & the ERA Study Team, 1998; Sigal, Perry, Rossignol, & Oimet, 2003; Sloutsky, 1997). A follow-up study of adopted children from Romania. Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal, 13, 541-565. Medical and developmental sequelae of early childhood institutionalization in Eastern European adoptees. Orphans, children of early age, were found to have lower rates of cognitive, speech and motor development, and less instrumental helping behaviour. Orphans are more closely related to cognitive and speech development rates than peers. The time spent at the child's home negatively affects the formation of the speech perception skill. 6. Karel S. R., Freeman B. J. Analysis of environmental deprivation: Cognitive and social development in Romanian orphans. J. Child Psychol. Psychiat. 35(4), 769 (1994). 7. Chugani H. T., Behen M. E., Muzik O. [et al.] Local brain functional activity following early deprivation: a study of postinstitutionalized Romanian orphans. Neuroimage. 14, 1290 (2001). Attachment in institutionalized and community children in Romania. Child Dev. 76, 1015 (2005). The children in that study were not adopted at random, so the degree to which these results generalize to nonadopted groups of children who experienced severe early deprivation is unclear. The BEIP has examined the issue of critical periods in brain and behavioral development in an even more precise fashion. The design of BEIP allowed examination of the effects of early deprivation on young children with a history of institutionalization, but more importantly for this review, the data are able to address questions about critical periods in exposure to adversity and their effects on brain development and psychological functioning.