

Psychologist Lawrence Kohlberg theorized that a person's moral reasoning (which drives ethical behavior) has six identifiable stages spread across three levels. Each successive stage is superior to the previous stage with regard to responding to moral dilemmas. We illustrate each stage below.

I don't care if it is the law it's not right and it's not fair!



Postconventional level

Level 1 (Preconventional Level). Here moral reasoning is closely tied to personal concerns.

Stage 1. Obedience and punishment orientation ("How can I avoid punishment?")



Stage 2. Self-interest orientation ("What's in it for me?")



Right or wrong is a function of rewards in this stage, where a "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours" mentality dominates.

An individual's motivation to behave ethically is driven by the fear of getting caught and punishment.

Level 2 (Conventional Level). Here moral reasoning arises from comparing one's actions with society's expectations.

Stage 3. Interpersonal accord and harmony



Stage 4. Authority and social order—maintaining orientation



Individuals act with the goal of fulfilling social roles, such as student, parent, and worker.

The desire to maintain a functional society by obeying laws drives behaviors.

If you drive too fast, you will break the law.



Conventional level

Level 3 (Postconventional Level). Here morality is more than simply following social rules or norms.

Stage 5. Social contract orientation



Stage 6. Universal ethical principles

Free Tibet



Laws are viewed as social contracts that promote the greatest good for the greatest number of people. Unjust laws and policies must therefore be resisted.

Moral reasoning is based on universal ethical principles such as the "golden rule" that you should treat others as you would want them to treat you.

I better share this toy or Mommy will be mad.



Preconventional level

Why is his theory important?



- ▶ Attempts to explain why we do what we do
- ▶ Gives credit to children as “moral philosophers”
- ▶ Maintains that people can grow and mature morally

Lawerence Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development

▶ Criticisms

- Great deal of overlap
- Cognitive abilities influence moral development
 - ▶ See other people's point of view
- Reaching the post-conventional stage is more appropriate for individualistic societies
- Understanding vs. action
- Carol Gilligan - Gender bias (girls are taught empathy, while boys are taught justice)

Carol Gilligan

- Argued Kohlberg's theory was biased toward men.
- It was based upon interviews with white males.
- Men show a morality of justice
- Women reason based on a "morality of care"
 - Stage 1 - care for one's own survival
 - Stage 2 - care for others
 - Stage 3 - care for integrity (self and others)
- Gilligan believed the difference was based upon cultural conditioning. Men's focus was traditionally on the workplace, women's on the family. *Will this change?*

Adulthood



The period of time in your life after your physical growth has stopped and you are fully developed.

The state (and responsibilities) of a person who has attained maturity.

Early Adulthood

Middle Adulthood

Late Adulthood

TOO MUCH COFFEE MAN

BY SHANNON WHEELER

LIFE:

PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, PLAY,
PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, PLAY,
PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, PLAY,
PLAY, SCHOOL, PLAY, SCHOOL, PLAY, SCHOOL, PLAY, SCHOOL,
SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL,
SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL,
SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL,
FIRST LOVE, BRIEF HAPPINESS, BREAK UP, REGRET, SCHOOL,
SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL,
SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SCHOOL,
PLAY, WORK, PLAY, WORK, PLAY, WORK, PLAY, WORK,
IDEALISM, EFFORT, REJECTION, FAILURE, WORK, EFFORT, FAILURE,
COMPROMISE, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, PLAY,
COMMITMENT, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, PLAY,
WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, PLAY,
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WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, PLAY,
RETIRE, PLAY, DIE.



Old Age: Life Expectancy

Life expectancy at birth increased from 49 in 1950 to 67 in 2004 and to **82 in 2018** in developed countries. Women outlive men and outnumber them at most ages. (82 for women, 76 for men.)

But more men are conceived 126 to 100. Then 105 to 100 by birth. In other words, men die easier.



Physical Changes – Adulthood

Primary aging- Gradual, inevitable age-related changes in physical and mental processes

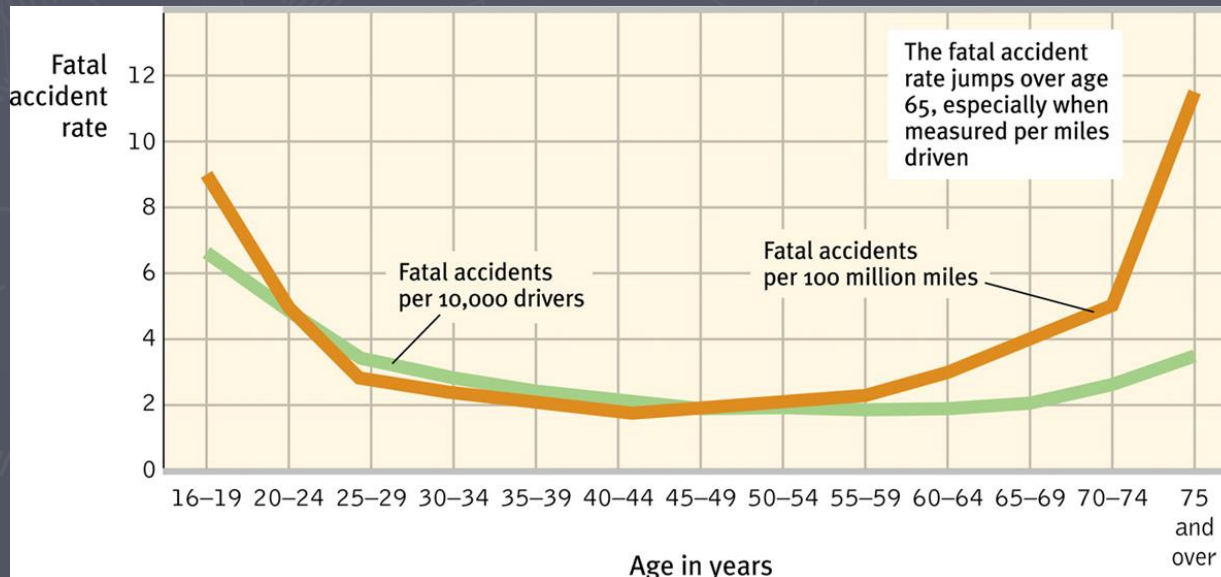
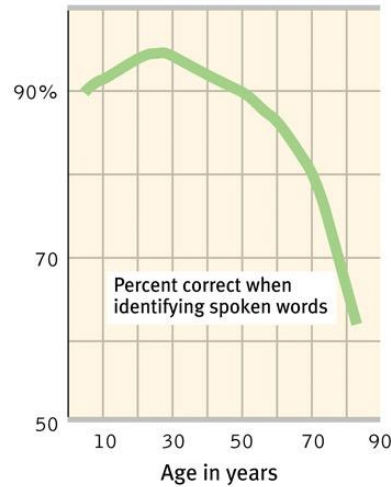
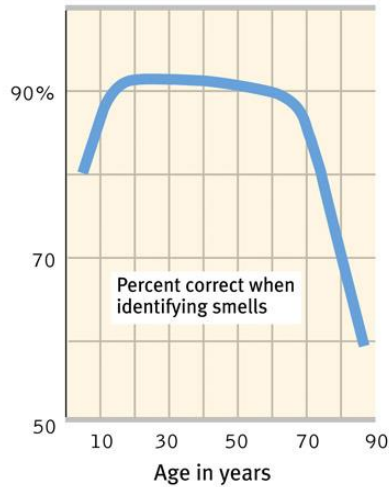
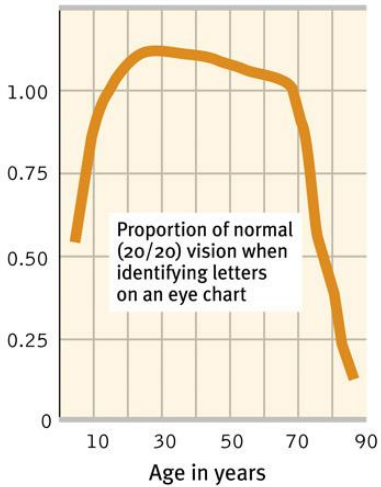
- One theory —our cells break down due to use and cannot repair themselves. **“Damage Theory”**
- Another theory — our cells are “biological clocks” that can only divide and multiply so many times so aging is necessary and natural.
“Programmed Theory”

Secondary aging- Changes resulting from disease, disuse or neglect

- Peak physical condition 18-30
- Changes in sight are *very* noticeable
- Hearing is not as good — especially when more than two people are talking. **“Cocktail Party Effect”** does not work as well.

Sensory Abilities

After age 70, hearing, distance perception, and the sense of smell diminish, as do muscle strength, reaction time, and stamina.



Motor response and reaction time also decreases after age 65.

After 80, the brain processes information at slower speeds.

Health/Immunity Changes with Age

The bad news



The immune system declines with age and can have difficulty fighting off **major** illnesses. (Such as cancer)

The good news



The immune system has a lifetime's accumulation of antibodies and does well fighting off **minor** illnesses. (Like colds)

Do old people get stupid?

- ▶ Cross-sectional studies show decline.
- ▶ Longitudinal Studies show consistency.

Why do they show different results?

Not only did the cross-sectional study compare people of two different ages, but of two different eras.

It compared generally less educated people, born in the early 1900s with better educated people, born after 1950.

They also compared people raised in small families with large families, affluent families with less affluent families, etc.

Which is positively correlated with age?
Which is negatively correlated with age?



Fluid Intelligence



- Global capacity to reason
- Ability to learn new things
- Think abstractly and solve problems

Crystallized Intelligence



- Prior learning and past experiences
- Based on facts
- Increases with age

More Learning and Memory Changes

- Rote memorization ability declines more than ability to learn meaningful information.
- **Prospective memory**, *planning to recall*, ("I must remember to do...")
- **Retrospective memory** *remembering that you already did something in the past.*

Declines occur in both types of memory



Changes in the Brain with Age

- Myelin-enhanced neural processing speed peaks in the teen years and declines thereafter.
- Regions of the brain related to memory begin to shrink with age, making it harder to form new memories.
- The frontal lobes atrophy, leading eventually to decreased inhibition and self-control.
- By age 80, a healthy brain is 5 percent lighter than a brain in middle adulthood.



Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias

Dementia, including the Alzheimer's type, is NOT a "normal" part of aging.

Dementia Symptoms

- decreased ability to recall recent events and the names of familiar objects and people
- emotional unpredictability; flat, then uninhibited, then angry
- confusion, disorientation, and eventual inability to think or communicate



Brain Changes of Alzheimer's Disease

- loss of brain cells and neural network connections
- deterioration of neurons that produce acetylcholine, the memory neurotransmitter
- shriveled and broken protein filaments forming plaques at the tips of neurons
- dramatic shrinking of the brain¹⁷

Alzheimer's Disease

- ▶ A progressive and irreversible brain disorder characterized by gradual deterioration of memory, language and physical functioning.
- ▶ Runs its course in 5 to 20 years.
- ▶ **It is related to a decrease in the neurotransmitter Acetylcholine (ACh).**
- ▶ Physical exercise enhances muscles, bones, energy, helps to prevent heart disease and obesity.

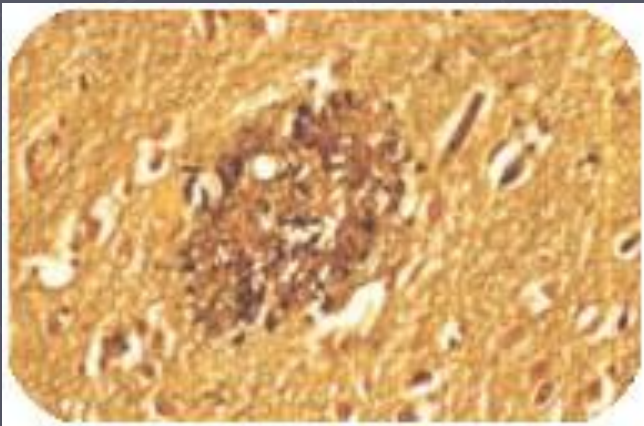


AD and the Brain

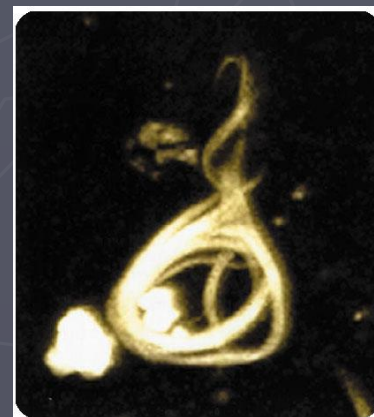
Plaques and Tangles: The Hallmarks of AD

The brains of people with AD have an abundance of two abnormal structures:

- Plaques are dense deposits of protein and cellular material that accumulate outside and around nerve cells' terminal branches.
- neurofibrillary tangles are twisted fibers that build up in the soma.



An actual AD plaque



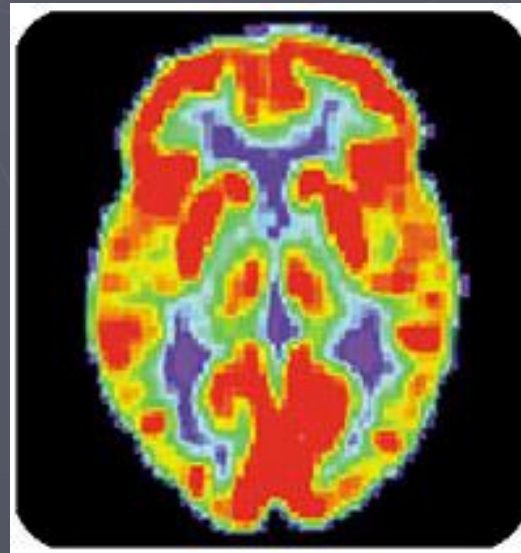
An actual AD tangle

YOUR MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES AS IT RELATES TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND THIS CLASS:

1. Know what it is
2. Know its relationship to Ach
3. Know about plaques and tangles, and what they do.

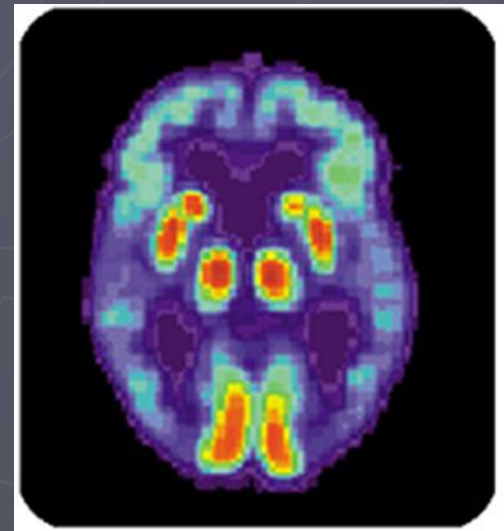
AD Statistics....

- AD is the most common cause of dementia among people age 65 and older.
- Scientists estimate that around 5 million people now have AD.
- For every 5-year age group beyond 65, the percentage of people with AD doubles.
- By 2050, 13.2 million older Americans are expected to have AD if the current numbers hold and no preventive treatments become available.
- No one knows what causes AD to begin, but we do know a lot about what happens in the brain once AD takes hold.



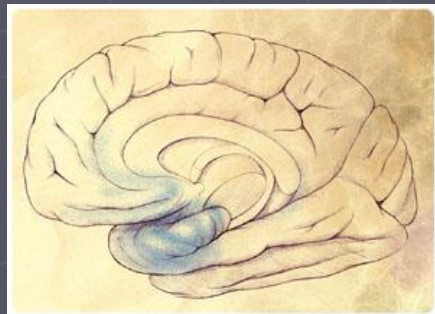
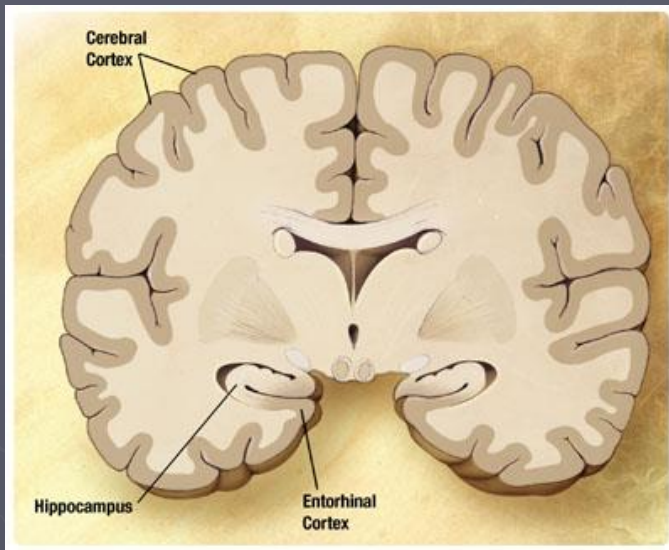
Pet Scan of
Normal Brain

Pet Scan of
Alzheimer's
Disease Brain



AD and the Brain

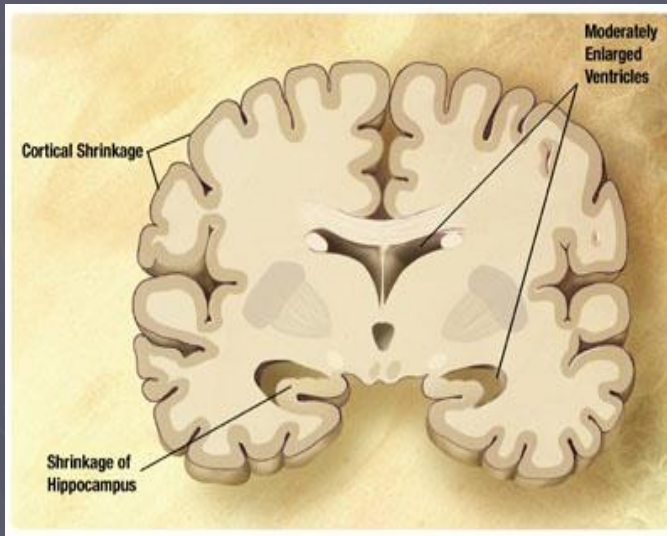
Preclinical AD



- Signs of AD are first noticed in the entorhinal cortex, then proceed to the hippocampus.
- Affected regions begin to shrink as nerve cells die.
- Changes can begin 10-20 years before symptoms appear.
- Memory loss is the first sign of AD.

AD and the Brain

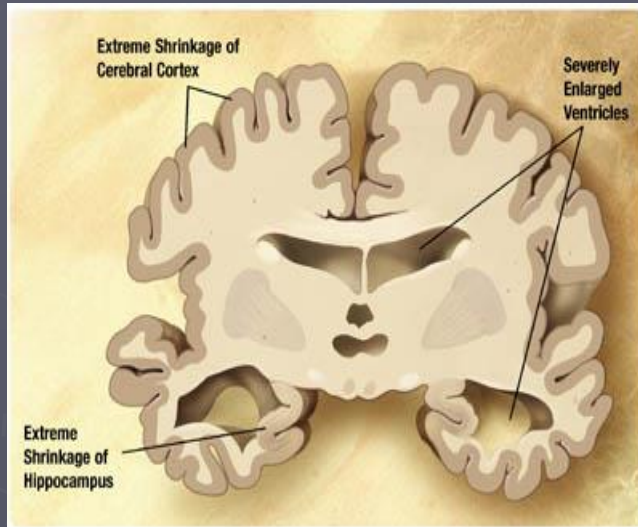
Mild to Moderate AD



- AD spreads through the brain. The cerebral cortex begins to shrink as more and more neurons stop working and die.
- *Mild AD signs* can include memory loss, confusion, trouble handling money, poor judgment, mood changes, and increased anxiety.
- *Moderate AD signs* can include increased memory loss and confusion, problems recognizing people, difficulty with language and thoughts, restlessness, agitation, wandering, and repetitive statements.

AD and the Brain

Severe AD



- In severe AD, extreme shrinkage occurs in the brain. Patients are completely dependent on others for care.
- Symptoms can include weight loss, seizures, skin infections, groaning, moaning, or grunting, increased sleeping, loss of bladder and bowel control.
- Death usually occurs from aspiration pneumonia or other infections. Caregivers can turn to a hospice for help and palliative care.
- [Video](#)

Social Development of Adults



Life events trigger transitions to new life stages at varying ages.

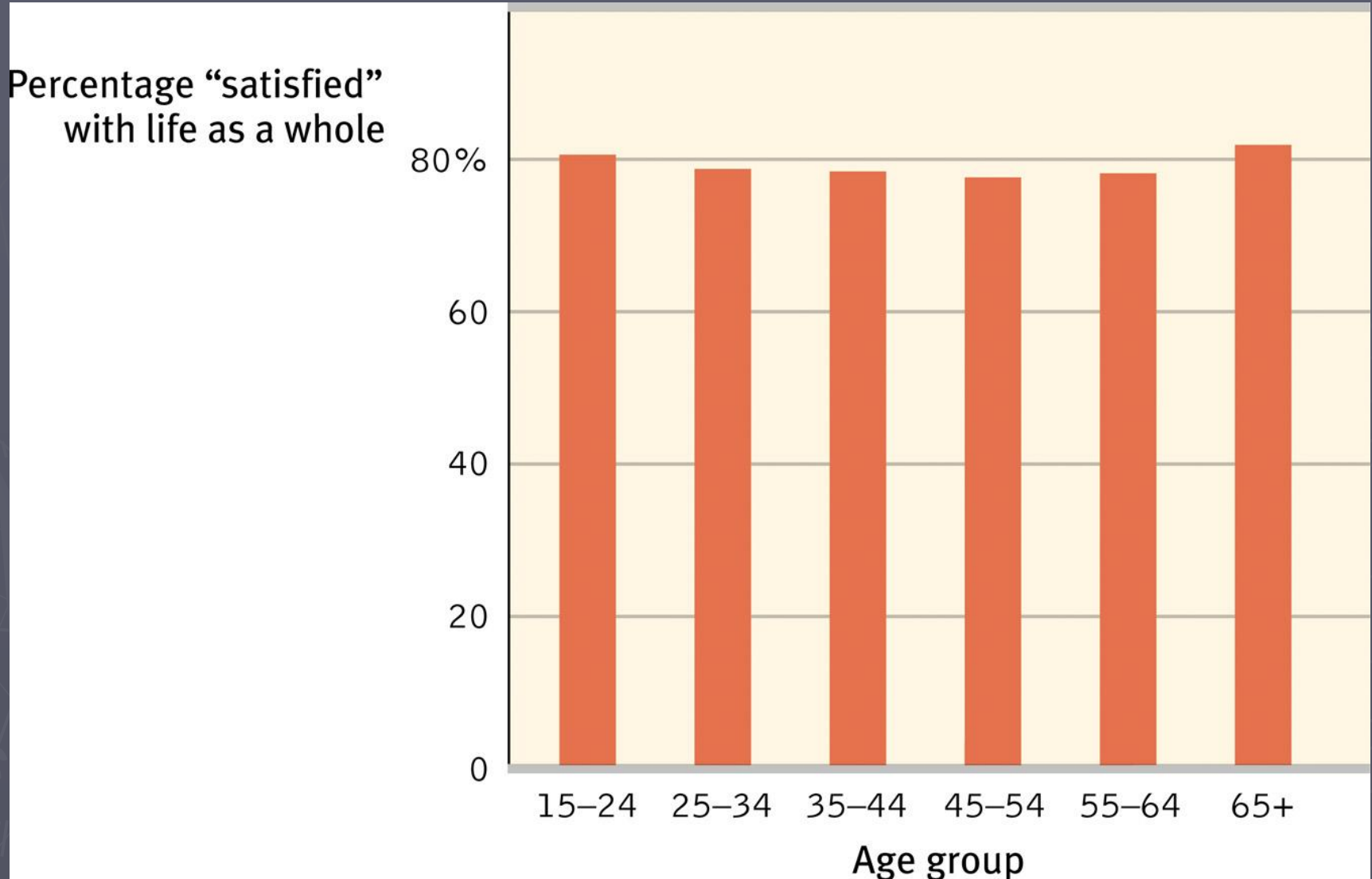
“Social Clock”

The ***social clock***—the definition of “the right time” to leave home, get a job, marry, have children, and retire—varies from era to era and culture to culture.

The once-rigid sequence has loosened; the social clock still ticks, but people feel freer about being out of sync with it.

Well-Being Across the Life Span

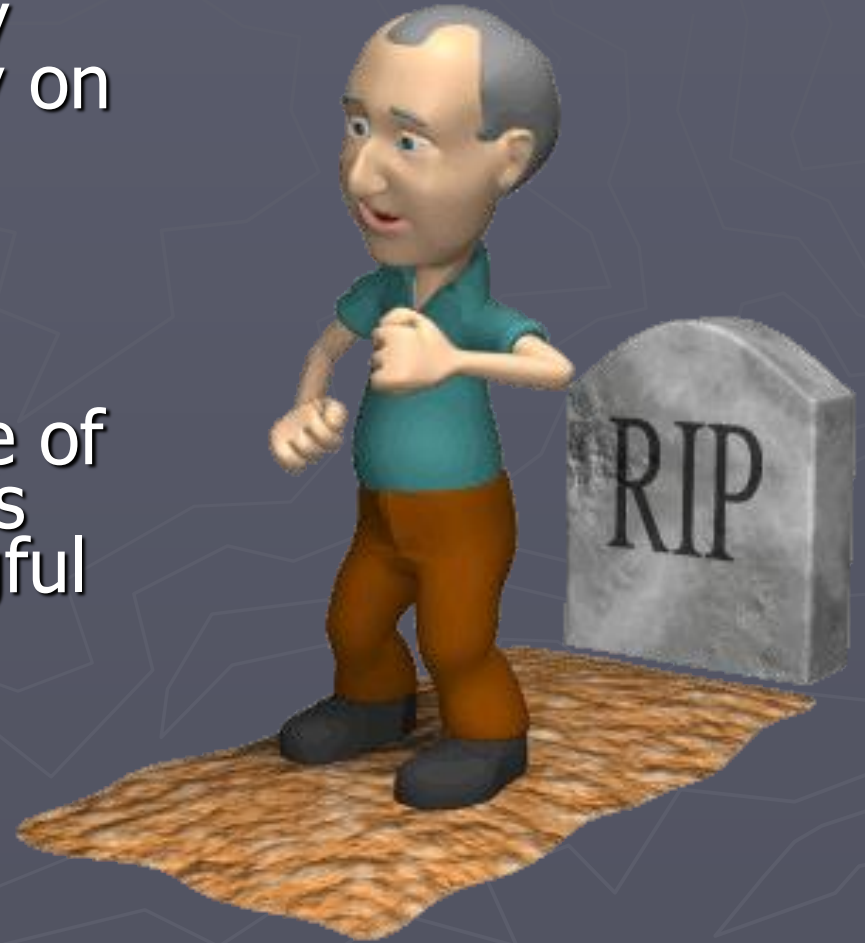
Well-being and people's feelings of satisfaction are stable across the life span.



Death and Dying

Individual responses to death may vary.

- Grief is more intense when death occurs unexpectedly (especially if also too early on the social clock).
- There is **NO** standard pattern or length of the grieving process.
- People who reach a sense of integrity in life (in Erikson's terms) see life as meaningful and worthwhile.



Thinking about dying

- ▶ Is it not better to live with the time you have and forget how it ends?
- ▶ Or, is it correct to suggest that acceptance of the inevitability of death gives meaning to life?