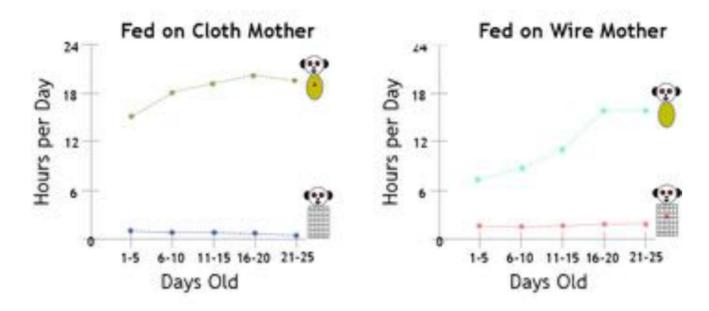
# **Attachment**

- Definition => Close emotional bond between two people (or animals).
- Different theories:
  - Freud: infants become attached to the person who provides oral satisfaction (e.g. Through feeding): ผ่านการพัฒนาขั้น แรก oral stage
  - o Behaviorism: attachment through reinforcement : ผ่านการเสริมแรว
  - o Erikson: trust comes from physical comfort and sensitive care
  - Harlow: infants prefer contact comfort over food : ผ่านการให้ความอบอุ่นมากกว่าอาหารของหารก
    - Harlow monkey experiment

## Harlow's Study

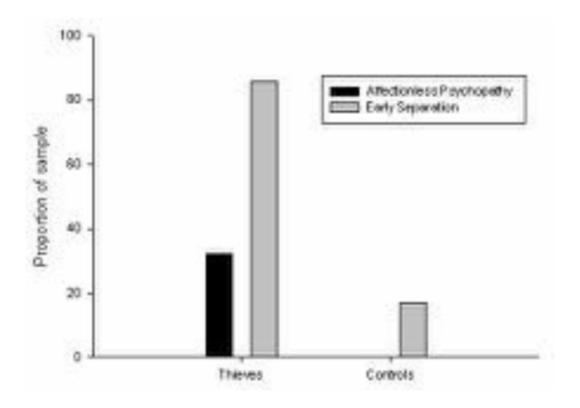
• Time spent with "mother"



## Bowlby's Theory

- Infants + parents biologically predisposed to form attachments : มักจะผ่านร่างกายในทารกับพ่อแม่
  - E.G. Lorenz (1935) study on imprinting (Critical period for imprinting is shortly after birth)
  - E.G. Crying, cooing, clinging to mother, smiling, following the mother
- Critical period: 6 months 2-3 years
- During this time, infant should receive continuous care : ช่วงนี้ต้องได้รับการดูแลอย่างสม่ำเสมอ
- Develops in 4 phases
  - Phase 1: birth 2 months
    - Attachment directed to other humans (eg. Parents, strangers)
  - Phase 2: 2-7 months
    - Attachment focused on one person (usually primary caregiver)
    - Learns to distinguish between familiar and unfamiliar people : หัดแยกแยะว่าใครคุ้นเคย
  - o Phase 3: 7-24 months
    - Specific attachments develop (eg. Mother and father)
    - Locomotor skills -> Actively seek contact with regular caregivers

- Phase 4: 24 months +
  - Become aware of others' feelings
  - Take these into account in forming own actions
- Consequences of maternal deprivation : ผลเสียจากการกิดกันจากแม่
  - o Delinquency : การกระทำผิด
  - Reduced IQ
  - o Increased aggression : ความก้าวร้าว
  - o Depression
  - Affectionless psychopathy : โรคจิตเภหที่ไร้ความรัก
- ► E.G. Thieves study (Bowlby, 1944)



## Ainsworth

### Ainsworth's Strange Situation

- Individual differences in attachment
  - o Strange situation: observational measure of infant attachment
  - Requires infant to move through
    - Introductions
    - Separations
    - Reunions and adult stranger in [prescribed order :(ตามลำดับที่กำหนดไว้)] : การกลับมาพบใหม่

#### Ainsworth's Theory of Attachment

- 4 attachment styles
  - 1. Securely attached babies ส่วนมาก

- When caregiver is present, infants will explore the room
- When caregiver leaves infant cries
- When caregiver retures, infants reestablish positive interaction (e.g. Climbing onto lap, smiling)
- Resume playing with toys in room

#### 2. Avoidant babies

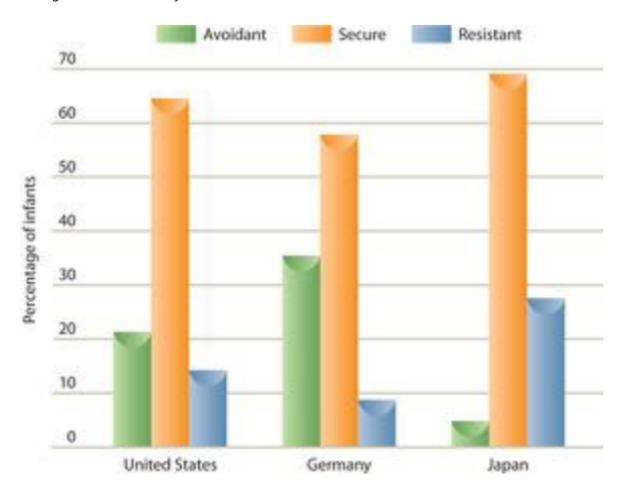
- Avoid caregiver
- Not distressed when caregiver leaves room
- Does not interact when caregiver comes back
- If contact then infant leans/looks away

#### 3. Resistant (ambivalent) babies

- Clings to caregiver in strange situation room
- Do not explore playroom
- Cry when caregiver leaves
- Push caregiver away when he/she returns

#### 4. Disorganized babies

- Dazed, confused, fearful
- Strong avoidance and resistance of caregiver
  - E.g. Extreme fearfulness around caregiver
- Evaluating Ainsworth's Theory of Attachment



### Adult Attachment

- Adult Attachment in romantic relationships (Hazan & Shaver, 1987)
  - Secure attachment style: Have a positive view of relationships and find it easy to get close to other
  - Avoidant attachment style: Are hesitant about getting involved in romantic relationships
  - Anxious attachment style: Demand closeness, are less trusting, more emotional, jealous, and possessive

### Research Findings for Adult Attachment

- 60-80% of adults describe themselves as being securely attached (Zeifman & Hazan, 2008)
- Infants who were securely attached at 1 years old were securely attached in adult relationship at age 21 (Steele et al., 1998)
- Securely attached infants were in more stable romantic relationships than insecurely attached infants (Salvatore et al., 2011)
- Security predicts more positive romantic relationships (Holland & Roisman, 2010)
- Anxiously attached individuals showed strong ambivalence toward romantic partner (Mikulincer et al., 2010) and relationship commitment than securely attached individuals (Joel, MacDonald & Shimotomai, 2011)
- Avoidant and anxious adults have lower sexual satisfaction than secure adults (Brassard et al., 2012)
- Insecure attachment linked with chronic disease such as cardiovascular disease (McWilliams & Bailey, 2010)
- Avoidant and anxious adults linked with depressive symptoms (Jinyao et al., 2012)

#### Benefit of Secire Attachment

- Mikulincer and Shaver (2012)
  - Self-acceptance
  - Self-esteem
  - Self-efficacy
  - o Emotional control
  - Optimistic
  - o Resilient : ยืดหยุ่น
  - o Activate cognitive representations of stability -> effective coping strategies : สามารถเผชิญกับปัญหา ได้
- Li and Chan (2012)
  - Better relationships with partners

#### Conclusion

- Attachment linked to relationship problems
- Other factors may also play a role in relationship functioning