
CONTEXTUAL DETERMINANTS OF MENTAL HEALTH: STATES AS SOCIAL CONTEXT IN THE STRESS PROCESS

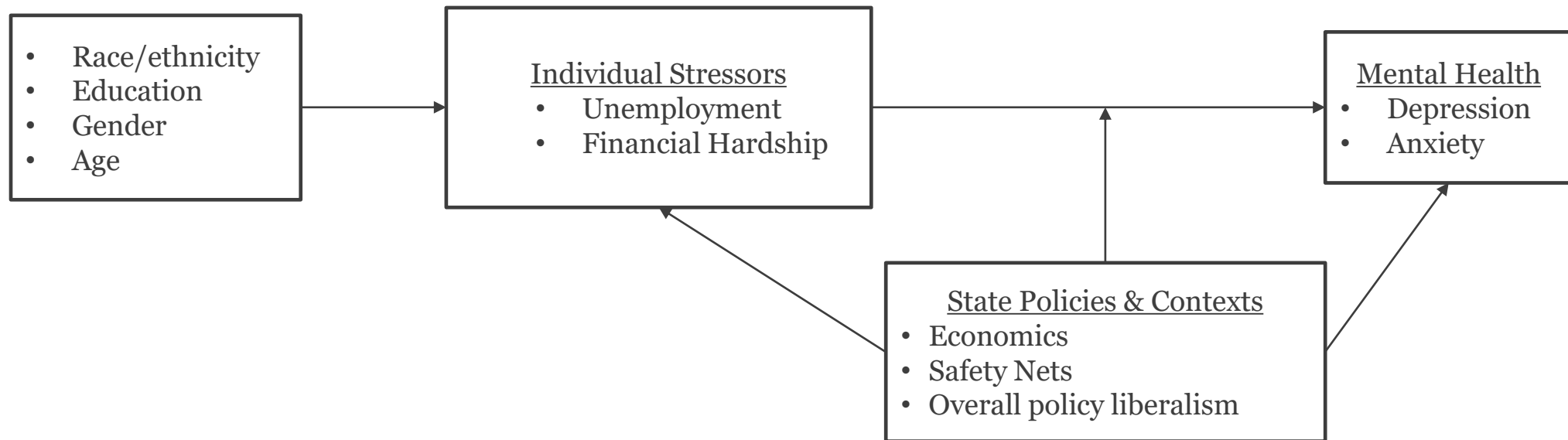
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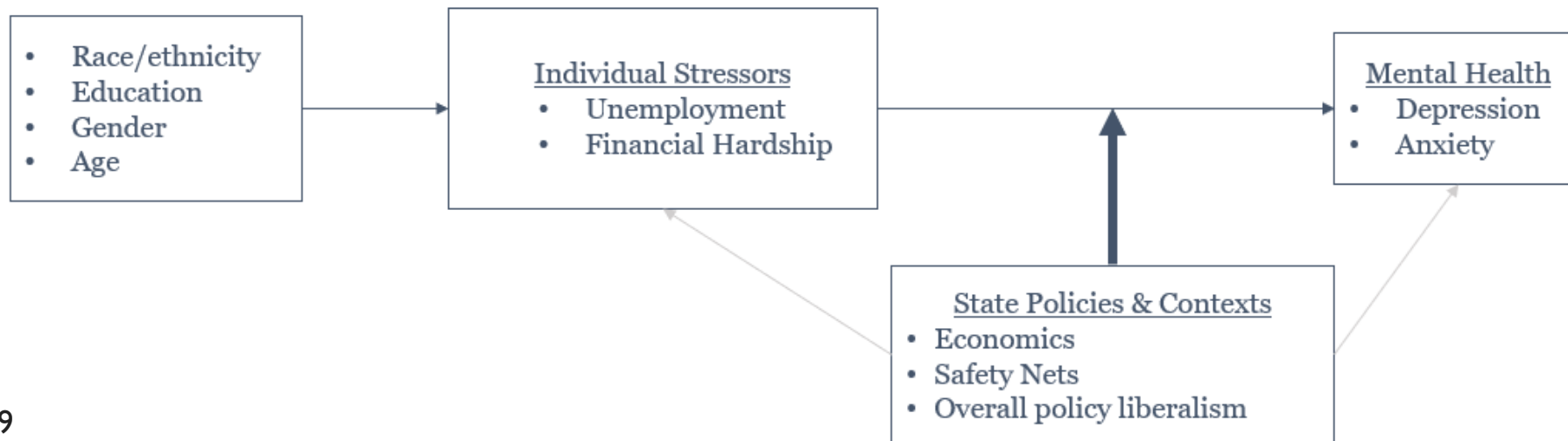
RECENT RESEARCH

- How do state-level policies and contexts shape experiences of stress and mental health?
 - Previous research situates stress process within context of neighborhoods – what about the state context?



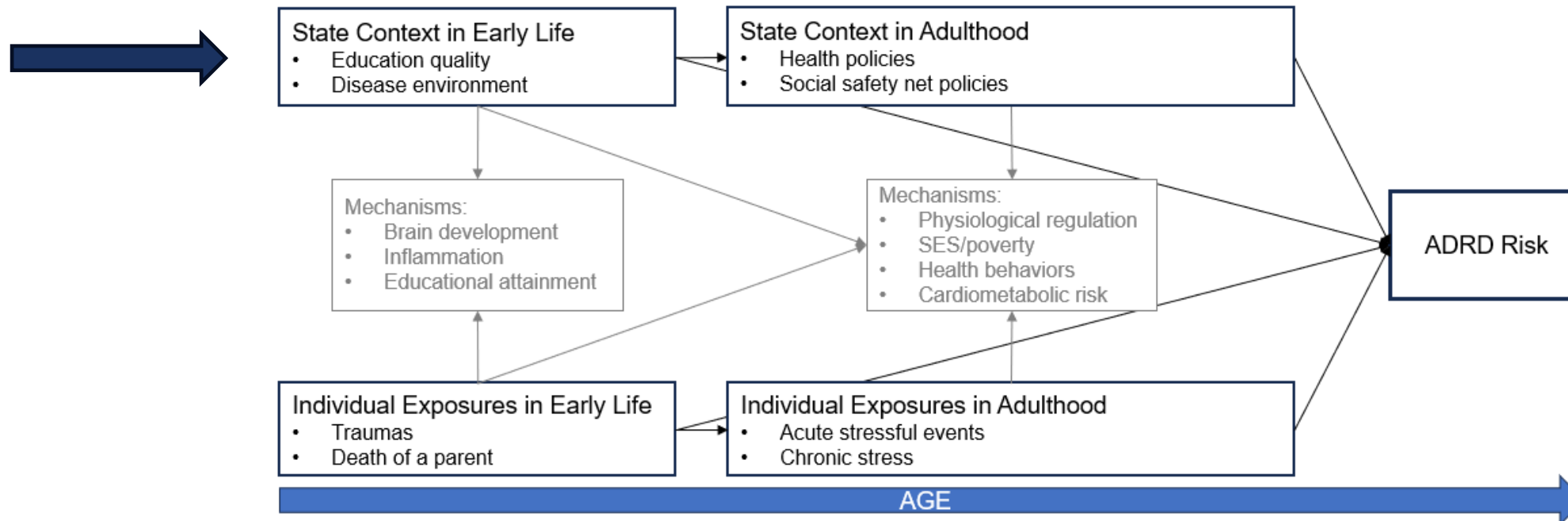
RECENT RESEARCH

- State policies (e.g., unemployment insurance, minimum wage, paid sick leave, policy indices) weaken adverse mental health effects of:
 - Income loss (Donnelly & Farina, 2021)
 - Economic-related anticipatory stress (Farina, Zhang, & Donnelly, 2023)
 - Essential work (Donnelly & Schoenbachler, 2024)
 - Financial hardship (Donnelly, Frierson, Zhang, & Boen, Forthcoming)



FUTURE RESEARCH

- 1) Incorporate duration and timing of state-level policies and 2) consider physical health outcomes with longer latency period
- How do individual- and state-level exposures across the life course independently and jointly increase ADRD risk for Black and White adults?



Note. Gray boxes not empirically tested in the proposed project. Arrows denoting interactions within and across levels not included.

CHALLENGES: DATA AND MEASUREMENT

- Examine single policy vs. groupings of policies
 - And isolate effects of policy of interest
- For older adults, need (consistently measured) historical state-level data to examine life course exposures
 - Best data starts in 1970s/1980s
- Best way to measure duration and timing of exposure to policies across the life course

THANK YOU

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EXTRA SLIDE: EXAMPLES OF MEASUREMENT CONSIDERATIONS

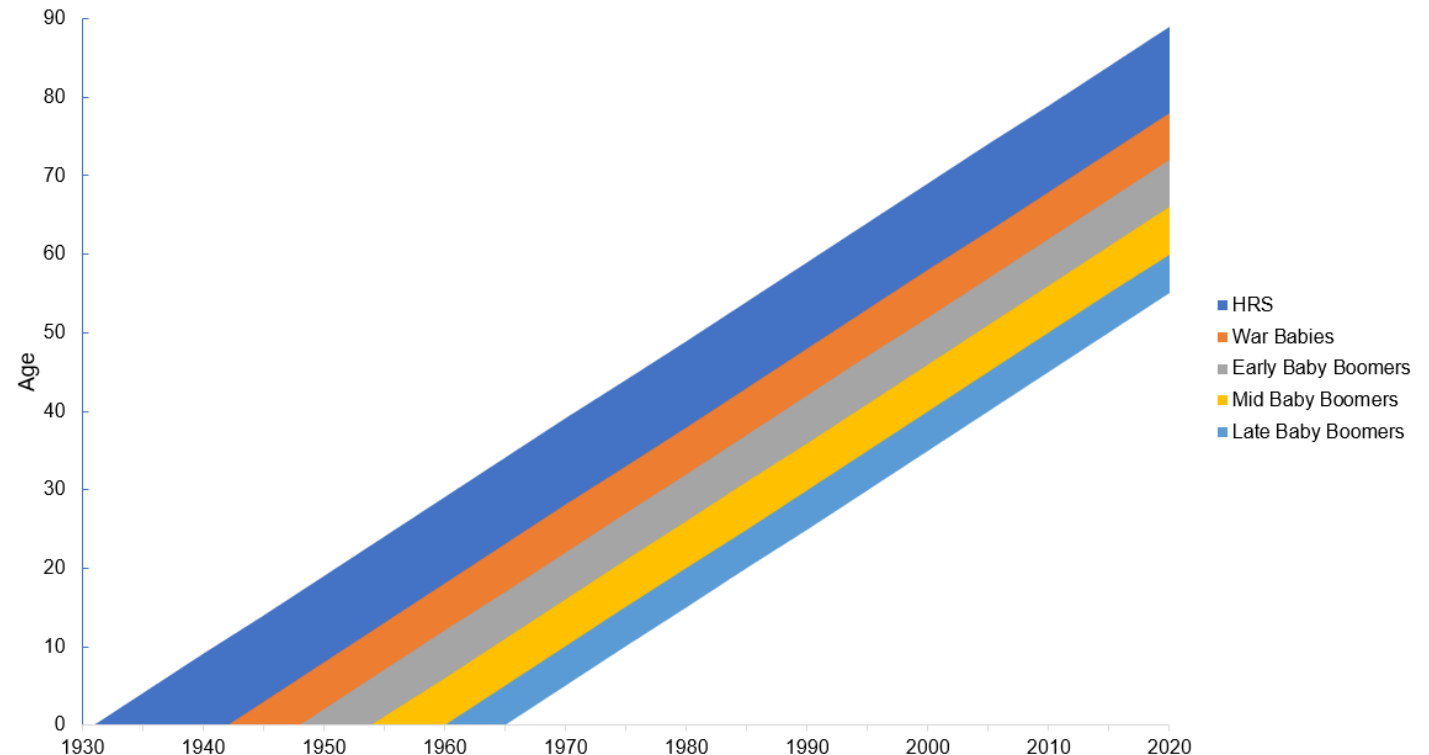
MEASUREMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Table 2. State Exposures by Years Available, Source, and Life Course Period of HRS Respondents

	Years	Source	Early Life	Adulthood*	Midlife & Older
Educational Quality					
Pupil-teacher ratio	1930+	BSE, SoSSS	✓		
Teacher salary	1930+	BSE, SoSSS	✓		
Per-pupil spending	1930+	BSE, SoSSS	✓		
Per-pupil revenue (local sources)	1930+	BSE, SoSSS	✓		
Per-pupil revenue (state sources)	1930+	BSE, SoSSS	✓		
Percent revenue from local	1930+	BSE, SoSSS	✓		
Percent revenue from state	1930+	BSE, SoSSS	✓		
Disease Environment					
Tuberculosis mortality	1928+	NVSS	✓		
Scarlet fever mortality	1928+	NVSS	✓		
Influenza mortality	1928+	NVSS	✓		
Diphtheria mortality	1928+	NVSS	✓		
Health					
Tobacco tax	1930+	CSPP	✓	✓	✓
Spirits tax	1937+	CSPP	✓	✓	✓
Beer/wine tax	1937+	CSPP	✓	✓	✓
Healthcare spending	1957+	CSPP	✓	✓	✓
Indoor clean air laws	1995+	SPPD			✓
Social Safety Net					
Unemployment insurance	1937+	CSPP	✓	✓	✓
Public welfare spending	1957+	CSPP	✓	✓	✓
SNAP maximum amount	1980+	SPPD			✓
State EITC	1980+	SPPD			✓
Medicaid generosity	2000+	SPPD			✓

*Adulthood = early adulthood-early midlife; BSE: Biennial Surveys of Education; SoSSS: Statistics of State School Systems; NVSS: National Vital Statistics System; CSPP: Correlates of State Policy Project; SPPD: State Policy Project Database

When state policy data would be needed for HRS cohorts:



EXTRA SLIDE: EXAMPLE OF PAID SICK LEAVE

“STATE-LEVEL PAID SICK LEAVE POLICIES AND POPULATION MENTAL HEALTH DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC”

Average Marginal Effect of Financial Hardship on Depression and Anxiety by State Paid Sick Leave Policy From Linear Probability Models with Two-way Fixed Effects

