

GENETICS AND MENTAL ILLNESS

The complex interaction between genes and environmental factors in understanding the determinants of mental illness.

- **Genes Do Not Dictate Behavioral Outcomes**

There is strong evidence for the genetic contribution for example with Schizophrenia.

However even in monozygotic twins who share 100% genetic overlap, when one of the monozygotic twins has Sz, the chance of the other twin having the disorder is slightly less than 50%

Genetic Factors Create a Predisposition or likelihood and Not a Certainty that Certain Disorders Will Develop

Genes do not directly cause psychological disorders.

Genes create the predispositions that increase the risk or likelihood of developing particular disorders.

Genes are carried in our chromosomes from conception and aren't affected directly by the environment.

However the effects that genes have on our body and mind may be influenced by environmental factors such as life experiences, stress, family.

Multigenic Determinism Affects Psychological Disorders

In disorders which genes play a role, multiple genes are involved, not individual genes acting alone.

Genetic Factors and Environmental Influence Interact with Each Other to Shape Our Personalities and Determining our Vulnerabilities for Psychological Disorders.

Genes can increase sensitivity to environmental influences; neglectful parenting can produce problems for kids but not all kids.

Some people have genetic tendencies that make them more sensitive to negative effects of environmental influences.