

ADOLESCENT BRAINS SHOW LOWER ACTIVITY IN AREAS THAT CONTROL RISKY CHOICES

A new NIMH study could help explain why adolescents are so prone to make risky choices. When contemplating risky decisions, they show less activity in regions of the brain that regulate processes involved in decision-making, compared with adults. The areas are among the last to develop and are involved in control of “thinking” functions, including decision-making, and in processing reward-related input and behavior (the orbitofrontal/ventrolateral prefrontal cortex and dorsal anterior cingulate cortex).

Science Update: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/press/adolescent-brains-risky-choices.cfm>