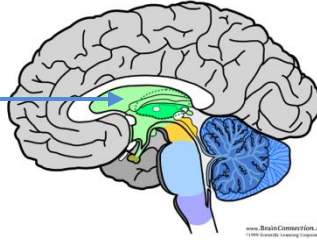


# Adolescent Brain Development, Decision Making and Risk

**Frontal Cortex:** —————  
decision-making, self-control



**The human brain develops  
into the early 20s.**

- Teenage brains aren't quite mature enough to make good decisions consistently.
- By mid-teens the brain's reward centers are well developed – making teens more vulnerable to peer pressure.
- The brain's frontal cortex (where reasoning connects with emotions) has not finished forming.
- The undeveloped frontal cortex makes weighing consequences more difficult for teens.