

Risk Factors That Inhibit Healthy Youth Development

RISK FACTORS	Problem Behaviors				
	Substance Abuse	Delinquency	Teen Pregnancy	School Drop-Out	Violence
Community					
*1. Availability of Alcohol and Other Drugs	√				√
*2. Insufficient Laws and Policies to Reduce Substance Use	√	√			√
*3. Social Norms Favorable Toward Substance Use	√	√			√
4. Community Disorganization	√	√			√
5. Extreme Economic Deprivation	√	√	√	√	√
Family					
*6. Family History of the Problem Behavior	√	√	√	√	√
*7. Family Management Problems	√	√	√	√	√
*8. Family Conflict	√	√	√	√	√
9. Parental Attitudes Favorable Towards Drugs	√	√			√
*10. Parental Attitudes Favorable Towards Other Problem Behavior	√	√			√
School					
11. Academic Failure	√	√	√	√	√
12. Low Commitment to School	√	√	√	√	√
Individual and Peer					
13. Early Initiation of Drug Use	√	√	√	√	√
14. Early Initiation (K-5) of Problem Behavior	√	√	√	√	√
15. Perceived Risk of Drug Use	√				
16. Favorable Attitudes Toward Drug Use	√	√	√	√	√
*17. Friends Who Use Drugs / Engage in Other Problem Behavior	√	√		√	
18. Peer Rewards for Drug Use	√				
19. Depressive Symptoms	√				

√ Indicates that at least two longitudinal studies have found the risk factor to predict the problem behavior.

* Indicates some preliminary evidence of correlation to problem gambling.

Protective Factors That Promote Healthy Youth Development

Community

1. Community Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement
2. Community Rewards for Prosocial Involvement

Family

3. Family Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement
4. Family Rewards for Prosocial Involvement
5. Family Attachment

School

6. School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement
7. School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement

Individual & Peer

8. Social Skills
9. Belief in the Moral Order
10. Religiosity
11. Prosocial Involvement

Research Findings:

- All Risk and Protective factors from the research predict youth substance use and the other problem behaviors.
- Research from Univ. of Washington, Social Development Research Group provides evidence that the Risk and Protective factor scores also predict statewide standardized academic test scores at the school district level.
 - Risk factors increase the probability of problem behaviors.
 - Protective factors decrease the probability of problem behaviors.