



Pennsylvania Communities That Care

# **PAYS Risk Factor Profile**

*with Definitions & Related Behaviors*



<b><u>Community Domain</u></b> Risk Factors	Substance Abuse	Delinquency	Teen Pregnancy	School Drop-Out	Violence	Depression & Anxiety
Low Neighborhood Attachment						
Community Disorganization						
Transitions and Mobility						
Laws & Norms Favorable to Drug Use						
Perceived Availability of Drugs						
Perceived Availability of Handguns						
<b><u>Family Domain</u></b> Risk Factors						
Poor Family Management						
Family Conflict						
Family History of Antisocial Behavior						
Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward ATOD Use						
Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Antisocial Behavior						

<b><u>School Domain</u></b> Risk Factors	Substance Abuse	Delinquency	Teen Pregnancy	School Drop-Out	Violence	Depression & Anxiety
Poor Academic Performance						
Lack of Commitment to School						
<b><u>Peer/Individual Domain</u></b> Risk Factors						
Rebelliousness						
Friends' Delinquent Behavior						
Friends Use of Drugs						
Peer Rewards for Antisocial Behavior						
Favorable Attitudes Toward Antisocial Behavior						
Favorable Attitudes Toward ATOD Use						
Low Perceived Risks of Drug Use						
Early Initiation of Drug Use						
Sensation Seeking						



<p><b><u>Community Domain</u></b></p> <p><b>Risk Factors</b></p>	<p><b>Definition &amp; Related PAYS Questions</b></p>	<p><b>Substance Abuse</b></p>	<p><b>Delinquency</b></p>	<p><b>Teen Pregnancy</b></p>	<p><b>School Drop-Out</b></p>	<p><b>Violence</b></p>	<p><b>Depression &amp; Anxiety</b></p>
<p>Low Neighborhood Attachment</p>	<p>Research has shown that a low level of bonding to the neighborhood is related to higher levels of juvenile crime.</p> <p>⇒ <i>I'd like to get out of my neighborhood.</i></p> <p>⇒ <i>I like my neighborhood.</i></p> <p>⇒ <i>If I had to move, I would miss the neighborhood I now live in.</i></p>	<p></p>	<p></p>			<p></p>	
<p>Community Disorganization</p>	<p>Research has shown that neighborhoods with high population density, lack of natural surveillance of public places, physical deterioration, and high rates of adult crime also have high rates of juvenile crime.</p> <p>⇒ <i>How much do each of the following statements describe our neighborhood: crime &amp;/or drug selling, fights, lots of empty or abandoned buildings, graffiti.</i></p> <p>⇒ <i>I feel safe in my neighborhood.</i></p>	<p></p>	<p></p>			<p></p>	
<p>Transitions and Mobility</p>	<p>Neighborhoods with high rates of residential mobility have been shown to have higher rates of juvenile crime and drug selling, while children who experience frequent residential moves and stressful life transitions have been shown to have higher risk of school failure, delinquency, and drug use.</p> <p>⇒ <i>Have you changed homes in the past year?</i></p> <p>⇒ <i>How many times have you changed homes since kindergarten?</i></p> <p>⇒ <i>Have you changed schools (including changing from elementary to middle and middle to high school) in the past year?</i></p> <p>⇒ <i>How many times have you changed schools since kindergarten?</i></p>	<p></p>	<p></p>		<p></p>	<p></p>	<p></p>

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<p>Laws and Norms Favorable Toward Drug Use</p>	<p>Community norms are the attitudes and policies a community holds in relation to drug use and other antisocial behaviors. National surveys have shown that shifts in normative attitudes toward drug use have preceded changes in prevalence of use.</p> <p>⇒ <i>How wrong would most adults (over 21) in your neighborhood think it was for kids your age to use: marijuana, drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes.</i></p> <p>⇒ <i>If a kid drank some beer, wine or hard liquor in your neighborhood, would he or she be caught by the police?</i></p> <p>⇒ <i>If a kid smoked marijuana in your neighborhood, would he or she be caught by the police?</i></p>	<p></p>	<p></p>			<p></p>	
<p>Perceived Availability of Drugs</p>	<p>How easily student's feel they can get alcohol or drugs has a direct relationship to how often they use these substances. In communities where youth believe that drugs are more available, a higher rate of use occurs.</p> <p>⇒ <i>If you wanted to get some beer, wine or hard liquor, how easy would it be for you to get some?</i></p> <p>⇒ <i>If you wanted to get some cigarettes, how easy would it be for you to get some?</i></p> <p>⇒ <i>If you wanted to get some marijuana, how easy would it be for you to get some?</i></p> <p>⇒ <i>If you wanted to get a drug like cocaine, LSD, or amphetamines, how easy would it be for you to get some?</i></p>	<p></p>				<p></p>	
<p>Perceived Availability of Handguns</p>	<p>If students believe that it would be difficult to get a handgun, they are less likely to become involved in unauthorized/unsupervised use of firearms.</p> <p>⇒ <i>If you wanted to get a handgun, how easy would it be for you to get one?</i></p>		<p></p>			<p></p>	

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<p>Poor Family Management</p>	<p>Parents' use of inconsistent &amp;/or unusually harsh or severe punishment with their children places them at higher risk for substance use and other problem behaviors. Also, parents' failure to provide clear expectations and to monitor their children's behavior makes it more likely that the youth will engage in drug abuse whether or not there are family drug problems.</p> <p>⇒ <i>My parents ask if I've gotten my homework done.</i></p> <p>⇒ <i>Would your parents know if you did not come home on time?</i></p> <p>⇒ <i>When I am not at home, one of my parents knows where I am and whom I am with.</i></p> <p>⇒ <i>The rules in my family clear.</i></p> <p>⇒ <i>My family has clear rules about alcohol and drug use.</i></p> <p>⇒ <i>If you drank some beer or wine or liquor without your parents' permission, would you be caught by your parents?</i></p> <p>⇒ <i>If you skipped school, would you be caught by your parents?</i></p> <p>⇒ <i>If you carried a handgun without your parents' permission, would you be caught by your parents?</i></p>						
<p>Family Conflict</p>	<p>Children raised in families high in conflict, whether or not the child is directly involved in the conflict, appear at risk for both delinquency and drug use.</p> <p>⇒ <i>People in my family often insult or yell at each other.</i></p> <p>⇒ <i>People in my family have serious arguments.</i></p> <p>⇒ <i>We argue about the same things in my family over and over.</i></p>						

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<p>Family History of Antisocial Behavior</p>	<p>When children are raised in a family with history of problem behaviors (e.g. violence or ATOD use), the children are more likely to engage in these behaviors.</p> <p>⇒ <i>Has anyone in your family ever had a severe alcohol or drug problem?</i></p> <p>⇒ <i>Have any of your brothers or sisters ever:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Drank some beer, wine or hard liquor?</i></li> <li>• <i>Smoked marijuana?</i></li> <li>• <i>Smoked cigarettes?</i></li> <li>• <i>Taken a handgun to school?</i></li> <li>• <i>Been suspended or expelled from school?</i></li> </ul> <p>⇒ <i>About how many adults (over 21) have you known who in the past year have:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Used marijuana, crack, cocaine, or other drugs?</i></li> <li>• <i>Sold or dealt drugs?</i></li> <li>• <i>Done things to get them in trouble with the police?</i></li> <li>• <i>Gotten drunk or high?</i></li> </ul>						
<p>Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward ATOD Use</p>	<p>Students' perceptions of their parents' opinions about alcohol, tobacco and other drug use are an important risk factor. In families where parents use illegal drugs, are heavy users of alcohol or are tolerant of children's use, children are more likely to become drug users during adolescence.</p> <p>⇒ <i>How wrong do your parents feel it would be for you:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Drink alcohol regularly?</i></li> <li>• <i>Smoke cigarettes or marijuana?</i></li> </ul>						

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<p>Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Antisocial Behavior</p>	<p>Students' perceptions of their parents' opinion about antisocial behavior are also an important risk factor. Parental attitudes and behavior regarding crime and violence influence the attitudes and behavior of children.</p> <p>⇒ <i>How wrong do your parents feel it would be for you to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Steal anything worth more than \$5?</i></li> <li>• <i>Graffiti or write things or draw pictures on buildings or other property (without the owner's permission)?</i></li> <li>• <i>Pick a fight with someone?</i></li> </ul>						

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<p>Poor Academic Performance</p>	<p>Beginning in late elementary grades, poor academic performance increases the risk of drug use, delinquency, violence and school drop-out. Children fail for many reasons, but it appears that the experience of failure increases the risk of these problem behaviors.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">⇒ <i>Putting them all together, what were your grades like last year?</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">⇒ <i>Are your grades better than the grades of most students in your class?</i></p>						
<p>Lack of Commitment To School</p>	<p>Lack of commitment to school means the child has ceased to see the role of the student as a positive one. Surveys of high school seniors have shown that the use of hallucinogens, cocaine, heroin, stimulants, and sedatives is significantly lower among students who expect to attend college than among those who do not. Factors such as liking school, spending time on homework, and perceiving the coursework as relevant are also negatively related to drug use.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">⇒ <i>How often do you feel the schoolwork you are assigned is meaningful and important?</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">⇒ <i>How interesting are most of your courses to you?</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">⇒ <i>How important do you think the things you are learning in school are going to be for your later life?</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">⇒ <i>Now, thinking back over the past year in school, how often did you:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Enjoy being in school?</i></li> <li>• <i>Hate being in school?</i></li> <li>• <i>Try to do your best work in school?</i></li> </ul> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">⇒ <i>During the LAST FOUR WEEKS, how many whole days have you missed because you skipped or “cut”?</i></p>						

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<p>Rebelliousness</p>	<p>Young people who do not feel part of society, are not bound by rules, don't believe in trying to be successful or responsible, or who take an active rebellious stance toward society are at higher risk of abusing drugs. In addition, a high tolerance for deviance, a strong need for independence, and normlessness have all been linked to drug use.</p> <p>⇒ <i>I do the opposite of what people tell me, just to get them mad.</i></p> <p>⇒ <i>I ignore rules that get in my way.</i></p> <p>⇒ <i>I like to see how much I can get away with.</i></p>						
<p>Friends' Delinquent Behavior</p>	<p>One of the most consistent predictors identified by research is when young people who associate with peers who engage in in delinquent behavior are much more likely to engage in the delinquent behavior themselves.</p> <p>⇒ <i>Think of your four best friends (the friends you feel closest to). In the past year (12 months), how many of your best friends have:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Carried a handgun?</i></li> <li>• <i>Sold illegal drugs?</i></li> <li>• <i>Stolen or tried to steal a motor vehicle such as a car or motorcycle?</i></li> <li>• <i>Been arrested?</i></li> <li>• <i>Dropped out of school?</i></li> </ul>						

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<p>Friends' Use of Drugs</p>	<p>Young people who associate with peers who engage in alcohol or substance abuse are much more likely to engage in the same behavior. Peer drug use has consistently been found to be among the strongest predictors of substance use among youth. Even when young people come from well-managed families and do not experience other risk factors, spending time with friends who use drugs greatly increases the risk of the problem developing.</p> <p>⇒ <i>Think of your four best friends (the friends you feel closest to). In the past year (12 months), how many of your best friends have:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Smoked cigarettes?</i></li> <li>• <i>Tried alcohol when their parents didn't know about it?</i></li> <li>• <i>Used marijuana?</i></li> <li>• <i>Used LSD, cocaine, amphetamines, or other illegal drugs?</i></li> </ul>						
<p>Peer Rewards for Antisocial Behavior</p>	<p>Young people who receive rewards for their antisocial behavior are at higher risk for participating in drug use and other problem behaviors.</p> <p>⇒ <i>What are the chances you would be seen as cool if you:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Smoked cigarettes?</i></li> <li>• <i>Began drinking alcoholic beverages regularly, that is, at least one or twice a month?</i></li> <li>• <i>Smoked marijuana?</i></li> <li>• <i>Carried a handgun?</i></li> </ul>						

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<p>Favorable Attitudes Toward Antisocial Behavior</p>	<p>During the elementary school years, children usually express anticrime and Prosocial attitudes and have difficulty imagining why people commit crimes or drop out of school. However, in middle school, as others they know participate in such activities, their attitudes shift toward greater acceptance of these behaviors. This acceptance places them at higher risk for those antisocial behaviors.</p> <p>⇒ <i>How wrong do you think it is for someone your age to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Take a handgun to school?</i></li> <li>• <i>Steal anything worth more than \$5?</i></li> <li>• <i>Pick a fight with someone?</i></li> <li>• <i>Attack someone with the idea of seriously hurting him or her?</i></li> <li>• <i>Stay away from school all day when their parents think they are at school?</i></li> </ul>						
<p>Favorable Attitudes Toward ATOD Use</p>	<p>During the elementary school years, children usually express anticrime and Prosocial attitudes and have difficulty imagining why people use drugs. However, in middle school, as others they know participate in such activities, their attitudes shift toward greater acceptance of these behaviors. This risk factor assesses risk by asking young people how wrong they think that it is for someone to use drugs.</p> <p>⇒ <i>How wrong do you think it is for someone your age to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Drink alcohol regularly?</i></li> <li>• <i>Smoke cigarettes?</i></li> <li>• <i>Smoke Marijuana?</i></li> <li>• <i>Use LSD, cocaine, amphetamines, or another illegal drug?</i></li> </ul>						

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<p>Low Perceived Risks of Drug Use</p>	<p>The perception of harm from drug use is related to both experimentation and regular use. The less harm that an adolescent perceives as the result of drug use, the more likely it is that he or she will use drugs.</p> <p>⇒ <i>How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day?</i></li> <li>• <i>Try marijuana once or twice?</i></li> <li>• <i>Smoke marijuana regularly?</i></li> <li>• <i>Take one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day?</i></li> </ul>						
<p>Early Initiation of Drug Use</p>	<p>The earlier that experimentation with drugs begins, the more likely it is that experimentation will become consistent, regular use; it may lead to the use of a greater range of drugs as well as other problem behaviors. Onset of drug use prior to age 15 is consistent predictor of drug abuse, and a later onset of drug use has been shown to predict lower drug involvement and a greater probability of discontinuation of use.</p> <p>⇒ <i>How old were you when you first:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Smoked marijuana?</i></li> <li>• <i>Smoked a cigarette, even just a puff?</i></li> <li>• <i>Had more than a sip or two of alcohol?</i></li> <li>• <i>Began drinking alcoholic beverages regularly, that is, at least once or twice a month?</i></li> </ul>						

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<p>Sensation Seeking</p>	<p>Constitutional factors are individual characteristics that may have a biological or physiological basis. Constitutional factors that increase risk are often seen as sensation seeking, low harm avoidance and lack of impulse control. They appear to increase the risk of young people using drugs, engaging in delinquent behavior and/or committing violent acts.</p> <p>⇒ <i>How many times have you done the following things?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Done what feels good no matter what.</i></li> <li>• <i>Done something dangerous because some dared you to do it.</i></li> <li>• <i>Done crazy things even if they are a little dangerous.</i></li> </ul>						