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Survey Research & Evaluation Services

2016 Prevention Needs Assessment Survey

Summary of Profile Report

Report for:

**Niskayuna Central School
District**

Sponsored by:



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This report presents a brief summary of the Niskayuna Central School District Profile Report compiled from the 2016 administration of the Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA). Readers are strongly encouraged to examine the full Profile Report for more information and a better understanding of the data.

Participants

The Niskayuna Central School District PNA included a survey of students in the 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades. A total of 1,134 surveys were found to be valid and honest. The male students totaled 50.0% of those surveyed and 50.0% were female. The 6th grade students contributed 25.4% of the utilized surveys, the 8th grade students contributed 26.1%, the 10th grade contributed 25.7%, and the 12th graders contributed 22.8%. Students who identified themselves as White contributed 73.2% of the surveys, Asian 12.5%, African American 3.9%, Hispanic 2.8%, Native American 0.9%, Pacific Islander 0.6%, and Multi-Racial or Other 6.0%.

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use

Alcohol - Lifetime and 30-day Use:

Alcohol is by far the most-used substance in all grades. Lifetime alcohol use is viewed to be a measure of experimental use and past-month use is viewed to be a measure of more regular use.

Both experimenting with and drinking alcohol regularly are increasingly popular among high school aged youth in Niskayuna CSD, nearly doubling in each surveyed grade as kids get older. Lifetime use in the 12th grade is extremely high (75.0%), putting it 9.0 percentage points higher than national rates from the Monitoring the Future (MTF) study. In 6th (5.0%) and 8th (12.6%) grades, trying alcohol is on the decline by about 4 percentage points; this continues a strong downward trend among 8th graders. In the 10th grade (46.6%) lifetime alcohol use rates were lower than MTF by 3.7 points but still increased since 2014 by 3.4 points.

For more habitual drinkers (students reporting drinking alcohol within the last 30 days) the highest users are also 12th grade students with more than half (51.6%) using alcohol in the month previous to the survey. This rate represents the highest regular use for this age group in the last 8 years. As with lifetime alcohol use, 30-day use more than doubles with each increase in grade surveyed. All younger grades remained below national MTF rates, [Sixth grade (1.4%) is not included in the MTF study] with 8th grade students (5.8%) using 3.2 points below youth from the rest of the country, and 10th grade (22.9%) falling just 0.6 points below MTF rates.

Alcohol - Binge Drinking:

After reviewing the exceptionally high alcohol use rates and strong upward trend in drinking - especially among high school seniors - in Niskayuna CSD, it should come as no surprise that binge drinking has increased in the 12th grade (51.6%) as well. In fact, the binge drinking rate for 12th grade is equal to the 30-day use rate, meaning that most students this age who drink are having at least 5 alcoholic beverages in one sitting. This rate also represents a 13.2-point increase; the highest it has been in the last 8 years.

Although younger grades' binge drinking is on an encouraging downward trend, the increase in the behavior as students get older is strikingly steep. It more than doubles with each consecutive grade surveyed and the jump from 8th grade to 10th is more than five times as much.

Cigarettes:

Lifetime experimentation with smoking is down in all grades but 10th (10.0%) which saw a slight 1.4-point rise. The 12th grade (23.1%) still more than doubles the next highest grade, however, and is more than all other surveyed grades combined. On a positive note, Niskayuna's lifetime cigarette rates in all grades are more than 10 points below national norms.

Continuing with the positive takeaways, those students in Niskayuna CSD who do try smoking typically don't let it become a habit. There were virtually no regular smokers in 6th (0.0%) or 8th (0.3%) grades, and only a small but upward trend among 10th grade (2.8%, up 0.6 points from 2014) and 12th grade (9.4%, up 2.2 points from 2014) students. In addition, rates for all grades were at least 4 points below the MTF.

It's interesting to note that when asked whether they would be seen as cool if they smoked cigarettes, 10.5% of 12th graders thought that there was at least "Some chance" they would be – very close to the actual rate of 12th graders who smoked in the past month.

Marijuana:

Marijuana has become the second-most-popular drug for high school students in Niskayuna CSD with very little drop-off between those who experiment with the drug and those who continue to use it regularly. In 10th grade, 20.7% of students had tried marijuana and 15.6% were regular users, and in 12th grade, lifetime use was 48.6% and 30-day use was 32.2%. Both high school grades exhibited an upward trend in use as well. For 6th (0.0% lifetime) and 8th (3.8% lifetime) grades, by contrast, marijuana use barely registers.

Attitudes towards marijuana by Niskayuna High School students are fueling its increased use. When asked, 62.8% of 12th graders said there was at least “Some chance” of being seen as cool for smoking weed, and a solid majority (54.5%) of 12th graders thought it was only “A little bit wrong” or “Not wrong at all” to use it. Marijuana seems to hold far more sway than its synthetic counterpart; 30-day use of synthetic marijuana never tops 2.0% in any grade.

Inhalants:

When other illicit substances are harder to come by, inhalant use is much higher. This is especially true for younger grades like 6th grade (2.5% lifetime, 0.4% 30-day) where it is the second-most popular way to get high. 8th grade use is even higher (5.5% lifetime, 3.4% 30-day), but lifetime use is very low in the upper grades (10th grade 3.1%, 12th grade 1.6%), and regular use is virtually nonexistent.

Amphetamines:

Amphetamine use was one area where Niskayuna CSD showed unusually high rates of use when compared with the rest of the nation, chiefly in the 12th grade. No 6th grade students used at all, but there is a large jump in amphetamine experimentation between 8th grade (1.0%) and 10th grade (6.9%) and lifetime use more than doubles again between 10th and 12th (14.1%) grades. The 12th grade lifetime rate exceeds MTF by 2.0 percentage points, and the 30-day rate for the same grade (4.7%) is 0.9 points above MTF. It also marks the first time in 8 years that amphetamine use has increased among Niskayuna High School seniors.

Newly Measured Substances (30-Day Use):

As mentioned briefly above in the section on marijuana use, its synthetic counterpart (Spice, K2) does not enjoy much popularity among Niskayuna CSD students. Synthetic marijuana is at least 50% below MTF numbers for all grades, and 6th grade students did not use the drug at all.

Energy drinks are fast becoming ubiquitous and, despite product warnings to the contrary, are easily accessible to almost any age group. This typically results in widespread popularity with students – especially high school student – but in Niskayuna CSD the rate of drinking energy drinks barely approaches 25.0% at its highest. Only 10.0% of 6th graders, 19.7% of 8th graders, 24.9% of 10th graders and 24.5% of 12th grade students had drunk one of these beverages in the last month. In fact, for 12th graders, alcohol is more than twice as popular as energy drinks despite it being illegal and much harder to come by.

Caffeine pill use was also measured and they do not appear to be popular with Niskayuna students either. No 6th graders used them, less than 2.0% used in 8th and 10th grades, and only 4.0% of 12th graders reported use.

The 2016 administration of the PNA is the first time these three substances have been measured so no information on trends is available.

Antisocial Behavior

In the area of Antisocial Behavior, Niskayuna CSD shows a good deal of healthy downward trends in most categories, with some notable exceptions. With the increase in 12th grade ATOD use noted previously in this report, it follows that negative behaviors that accompany drug use would become more prevalent as well.

The rate of being drunk or high at school at some time in the past year is nearly double what was reported in 2014; 10th grade rates increased from 4.6% to 9.0% and the 12th grade's 2014 rate of 9.7% increased to 18.2%. This score is also the only time that Niskayuna CSD tops the BH Norm for any antisocial behavior.

For students to use illegal drugs, someone needs to provide them. Another area up from 2014 is selling illegal drugs, with 3.1% of 10th grade students and 7.8% of 12th grade students reporting the activity. Curtailing drug use will require efforts to cut off distribution in addition to demand.

Among younger students the highest antisocial behaviors were "Attacking someone with the idea of seriously hurting them" in 6th grade (2.8%) and "Been suspended from school" in the 8th grade (4.7%), but even these highest score were still more than 7 points below national norms.

Gambling

Overall gambling was down in all grades except 8th (38.0%) which went up 2 points from 2014. In fact, gambling is down overall an average of 38.7% since 2008. One area that is strikingly high compared to national scales is "Bet on horses" probably due in large part to the proximity to Saratoga Race Course.

In 6th grade, 9.7% of students bet on horse races during the past year (4.3 points over BH Norm), in 8th grade it was 16.4% (10.6 points over), in 10th it was 12.0% (6.5 points over) and in 12th grade 20.4% of kids had placed bets on horses, making them 15.2 points higher than their national counterparts.

Risk Factors

Youth in Niskayuna Central School District schools show variation in the degree to which they possess risk factors compared to the 8-state norm. The reader is encouraged to examine the Profile Report for more detailed information in these areas for a better understanding of the data; the data is often better understood by looking at the risk factor profile charts. The percentage of high-risk youth is defined as the percentage of students who have more than a specified number of risk factors operating in their lives – 7 or more in the 6th grade, 8 or more in the 8th grade, and 9 or more in the 10th & 12th grades. For easy reference, the risk factors are outlined in this summary in Table 1.

Community Domain:

All grades except 12th show a steady downturn in kids scoring as “at risk” on the two Community Domain scales. The 12th grade exhibited a double-digit uptick in “Laws & Norms Favor Drug Use” (60.2%, up 15.7 points over 2014) and “Perceived Availability of Drugs” (46.2%, up 15.0 points over 2014), providing additional insight into possible causes for the rise in drug use among this age group.

Family Domain:

The 12th grade leads all areas both for scoring as “high risk” and for trending upwards from the last administration of the survey. “Family Conflict” (39.9%) scored 1.9 points over the BH Norm, and “Parent Attitudes Favor Drug Use” (47.2%) was 6.9 points over the national scale score.

The scale in which most grades scored the highest was “Parent Attitudes Favor Antisocial Behavior” with 51.4% of 12th graders at risk, 47.4% of 10th graders and 34.3% of 8th graders scoring as at risk as well. It was second-highest in 6th grade (33.0%) by only one tenth of a percent.

Sixth through tenth grades showed mostly a downward trend, except in one area: Family Conflict. Family Conflict was the highest scale score in 6th grade (33.1%) and one of only two areas – the other being Sibling Drug Use – that were above the BH norm.

Sibling Drug Use was also higher than national score for the same scale in 8th grade (29.0%). This is a troubling statistic because it also mirrors the high drug use rates among older students, who it seems are likely to be setting a dangerous precedent through their example to their younger siblings.

School Domain:

Of the two scales in the School Domain, “Low Commitment to School” displayed the most students at risk in each grade. Both scales fell below the BH norm with the exception of two areas, 6th grade Low Commitment to School (39.4%) which was 4.2 points above and 12th grade Low Commitment to School (45.9%) which was 2.3 points above the national rate.

Peer-Individual Domain:

The Peer-Individual Domain is the largest risk category containing 10 separate scales to measure early initiation to drugs and antisocial behavior, students’ attitudes regarding them, and interaction with peers who engage in those behaviors. It also looks at depression and gang activity risks as well.

The scores for students at risk in the 6th grade fell far below BH Norms except for two areas: “Attitudes Favorable to Antisocial Behavior (41.5%, 15.4 points over) and “Perceived Risk of Drug Use” (32.5%, 0.5 points over). These were also the two highest-risk areas for this grade.

Early Initiation of Antisocial Behavior dropped almost by half from 9.0% in 2014 to 5.4%; it may be worth exploring what efforts have been put into place in the last few years to see what is helping younger kids avoid negative actions. Combined with this statistic is the decrease in those at risk for Early Initiation of Drug Use (9.4%) by 5.2 points from 2014. Both these score represent an eight-year low in reducing risk for the early onset of problematic behaviors.

Not all scales are on their way down, however. In addition to “Attitudes Favorable to Antisocial Behavior” mentioned above (up 8.7 points over 2014), two other areas, “Depressive Symptoms” (21.9%, up 4.1 points) and “Gang Involvement” (4.0%, up 1.2 points) were on the rise.

In the 8th grade, “Perceived Risk of Drug Use” (32.5%) was the highest score but that was down from the previous PNA administration and 5.4 points below the BH Norm. In fact, no risk scales scored higher than the BH Norm for 8th grade and only one area – Rewards for Antisocial Behavior – was up 1.7 points over 2014.

Notable decreases occurred in all early initiation and attitude risk scales for the 10th grade. Rewards for Antisocial Behavior (55.9%) was the highest scoring risk scale, up 4.1 points from 2014 and 9.2 points higher than the BH Norm. Depressive Symptoms (38.0%) was the only other increase, up 1.4 points from the previous PNA administration. Students in the 10th grade also had the highest score of any grade for “Interaction with Antisocial Peers” (13.9%). Perceived Risk of Drug Use, while slightly down from two years ago at 55.9%, nevertheless continues to be above national levels and continues the trend of all Niskayuna CSD grades surveyed scoring above the BH Norm for being at risk due to erroneous perceptions about the dangers of drug use. This trend could also be indicative of why ATODs gain so much popularity by 12th grade.

Unlike the younger grades whose risk scores in the Peer-Individual Domain are mostly on a downward trend, the 12th grade saw a rise from 2014's scores in 6 out of the 10 scales in question. Reported drug use rates mirror the strong increase in risk scores in categories like: Early Initiation of Drug Use (31.0%, up 6.2 since 2014), Attitudes Favorable to Drug Use (50.6% up 4.6 points), Perceived Risk of Drug Use (59.4% up 6.5 points) and Friends' Use of Drugs (37.6% up 8.1 points).

The highest risk score in all categories and in all grades also belongs to the 12th grade in this domain. Rewards for Antisocial recorded 72.2% of seniors at risk, which is 10.7 points over the BH Norm and up 7.9 points over 2014. Addressing this area in particular will be extremely important in curbing the increase in negative behaviors; attitudes and perception of rewards fuel over half (52.9%) of the scales placing Niskayuna youth in the "High Risk" designation (7 or more risk factors affecting their lives).

Protective Factors

The percentage of youth with high protection (defined as youth who have more than five protective factors operating in their lives) ranges from as low as 73.0% with high protection in the 12th grade to as high as 81.1% with high protection in the 8th grade. All grades exhibited much higher levels of protection than the BH Norm. Recall that higher percentages are better for the protective factors. Please refer to Table 9 in conjunction with the information below.

Community Domain:

The Community Domain only has one scale: Rewards for Prosocial Involvement. While scale scores for rewards for antisocial behavior were up as mentioned previously, all scores for prosocial rewards fell below BH Norms by nearly 20 or more percentage points. Students in the 8th grade scored the highest with 47.4% having protection and 10th grade was lowest with only 31.5%. Trends over previous years showed only slight changes up and down, with 12th grade having the largest difference with a downward move of 5.0 points.

Family Domain:

Family protective factors showed the strongest average scores out of any domain in Protective Factors. All areas in 6th through 10th grades are up as well, but 12th grade showed things moving downward in all of its scores. Family involvement can be crucial against antisocial behaviors and drug use, and one encouraging piece of data is that even with 12th grade showing lower scores, it was still at or above BH Norm levels – the same goes for the other grades surveyed.

The 8th grade had the highest scores in this domain including the highest overall Family Domain score of any grade for “Opportunity for Prosocial Involvement” (74.7%). Opportunity for Prosocial Involvement was also the strongest of the Family Domain scales. This suggests that the opportunities are there, kids just need to be encouraged to discover them and use them to steer clear of negative influences.

School Domain:

The only grade to take a consistent downward turn in these two scales was the 12th grade. However, 6th grade had the lowest scores and 8th grade was second lowest. One area in particular was especially low for the younger grades was “Rewards for Prosocial Involvement”; scale scores for 6th grade (44.7%) and 8th grade (55.0%) were below the BH Norm. In the case of 6th grade, it was 25.6 points below national norms. As with the Family Domain, scale scores for school indicate that there are opportunities for positive outlets for young people’s behavior there but that perceptions of the rewards for good behavior are lagging behind.

Peer-Individual Domain:

Three of the lowest scores in all grades for this domain belong to the 6th grade (Religiosity 32.4%, Prosocial Involvement 68.9%, Rewards for Prosocial Involvement 49.1%). This is notable because 6th grade students usually exhibit higher protection scores particularly for the last two scales regarding prosocial involvement. On a positive note, 3 out of 5 scales are up from 2014 by at least 2.0 points.

The next grade level surveyed, 8th grade, had 3 of the 5 highest scores (Religiosity 47.3%, Belief in the Moral Order 84.5%, Prosocial Involvement 83.7%) and strong scores as a grade overall. Scale scores in the 10th grade were also high, with all areas pertaining to prosocial involvement increasing from 2014 by as much as 10.0 percentage points.

Scales scores for the 12th grade were, again, very low. Belief in the Moral Order (61.9%) and Interaction with Prosocial Peers (51.4%) were the lowest totals for protection in this domain out of all grades surveyed. Those two scales as well as Religiosity are all on downward trends from 2014 by at least 3.0 points. Prosocial Involvement (78.3%) and Rewards for Prosocial Involvement (60.6%) were bright spots in that even though those areas showed less protection than some grades, they represent an increase from 2014 and are than the BH Norm.

Youth Perceptions of Substance Use

The PNA Survey asked students the following: “Now think about all the students in your grade at school. How many of them do you think: smoke one or more cigarettes a day, drank alcohol sometime in the past month, used marijuana sometime in the past month, used an illegal drug in the past month (not including marijuana)?” The question was designed to assess student perceptions of peer use.

Peer perception does not usually match reality. Far fewer kids use than their peers suppose; a close examination of the actual reported use versus what students believed their classmates were doing shows this disparity clearly. Please refer to Table 14 in the profile report for more details. A brief breakdown of the response option is as follows: “None (0%),” “Few (1-10%),” “Some (11-30%),” “Half or less (31-50%),” “Half or more (51-70%),” “Most (71-90%),” and “Almost all (91-100%).”

Cigarettes –

In 6th grade, no students reported use, but 20.1% thought that at least a “Few” of their peers smoked regularly. Only 0.3% used in 8th grade, but 42.4% thought it was higher and at least a “Few” used. More than half of the 10th graders surveyed believed at least “Some” of their peers smoked, but in reality only 2.8% reported smoking in the past 30 days. The reported rate of smoking was slightly higher in the 12th grade (9.4%), but 54.0% of those surveyed thought “Some” or more used cigarettes regularly.

Alcohol –

Students in the 6th grade were much closer with their estimations of alcohol use; 4.7% thought “Some” or more drank in the last 30-days, but actual use was 1.4%. In the 8th grade, 5.8% used alcohol recently, but 16.6% thought “Some” or more were drinking alcohol regularly. The disconnect between perception and reality – especially with drinking – becomes very pronounced by the time students reach high school. Among 10th grade youth, 22.9% had drank alcohol in the past month, but 74.0% thought it was higher and 50.5% of kids thought the majority of their peers drank regularly. A similar pattern emerged in 12th grade as just over half (51.6%) reported drinking in the last 30 days, but 41.1% of seniors thought “Most” or “Almost All” of their peers drank.

Marijuana –

The perception mentioned earlier in this report that a good deal of students in Niskayuna CSD felt they would be “seen as cool” if they smoked marijuana regularly no doubt has some effect on the perception of whether or not students believed their peers used the drug. Regular use of marijuana, even among older students, was relatively low but high school students especially believed it was far more popular among their peers than actual reported use suggests.

There were no students in the 6th grade who used marijuana, but 12.0% of those surveyed thought at least a “Few” did. In the 8th grade, 2.7% reported use, but 9.4% thought it was higher. As with the previous substances, the gap between reported and supposed use grew wider among high school students. In 10th grade, 15.6% reported 30-day use, but 66.1% believed it was higher and 46.0% thought most of their peers used. Of the 12th grade students surveyed, 32.3% reported using marijuana in the past month, but 57.7% thought the majority of their classmates used the drug.

The same pattern seen with these three more common substances, is repeated with the scores for “Other Drugs,” but to a lesser degree.

Extra Questions Regarding Suicide

A special effort was made by the sponsors of the 2016 Niskayuna CSD survey to craft a series of extra questions regarding suicide and its effect on the youth in the district. Questions were asked concerning suicide awareness and prevention, support systems and its effect on students both directly and indirectly.

About 1 in 3 (34.4%) students in the district overall have not talked to anyone about suicide or learned any suicide prevention techniques. By 12th grade, it's only 15.6% but the percentage of 6th graders without any suicide coping skills is 52.6%. While this might be by design - perhaps the thinking being that students this age are too young to learn about such matters – the fact is, as will be discussed below – 1 in 4 6th grade students shared that their lives have been touched by the suicide of someone they knew.

Of those that have talked with someone about suicide prevention, most learn it in school, but this is chiefly by 12th grade (66.4%). Overall, the rate is 40.1%, but other grades are much lower. The second-highest place kids discuss suicide is at home (27.6%), which was much more evenly distributed across all grades between 25.1% and 30.2%. Recall that scores for protection in the Family Domain, specifically “Family Attachment” were high for all grades – much higher than national rates. Encouraging parents to talk with their kids about this sensitive and difficult topic, as well as providing them with the tools to do so, might make the home the strongest venue for delivering suicide prevention messages.

This is further supported by the responses students gave when asked whom they could turn to for help if they were considering suicide. The most popular response by far was “Someone in my Home” at 60.8% overall. High school students had a second strong option with “Another Friend” (44.9%) but this was almost twice as high in 10th and 12th grades as it was in 6th and 8th. Another sobering statistic is that more than 1 in 10 (11.8%) said they have no one to turn to.

For both learning about suicide prevention and when it comes to looking for help, one's Faith Community placed last. Only 6.8% had discussed or been taught prevention at church, and only 8.6% would go to someone in their faith community for help. This is to be expected when looking at the low Religiosity protective scales scores for Niskayuna, but it also means that home and school will be important places to share and provide support.

The impact of suicide in one's social circle among Niskayuna CSD students is by no means rare. Overall in the district, about 1 in 3 kids (33.7%) have had suicide touch their lives. This is lowest in the 6th grade where it's closer to 1 in 4 (22.1%), but for high school it's over 40.0%. Most said it “Impacted One of my Friends” (14.4% overall), but that option ranges from 3.3% of 6th graders to 21.9% of 12th graders. Second-highest was “Someone in my Community” (11.4% overall) but again, this starts at 4.4% of 6th grade students and increases steadily to 18.4% of 12th grade youth.

Other questions dealt with personal experience with suicidal thoughts and attempts at taking one's own life. The vast majority, 86.6% overall, did not consider suicide. Close to 5.0%, however, did seriously consider it and/or made plans to; 2.1% actually attempted killing themselves. Those suicide attempts resulted in the need to seek medical attention for 1.7% of youth in the district; it was higher for 10th grade (2.9%) and 12th grade (3.2%).

Reference: Niskayuna Central School District Prevention Needs Assessment Profile Report, 2016. Bach Harrison, LLC.

Table 1. Risk & Protective Factor Scale Definitions

<i>Community Domain Risk Factors</i>	
<i>Community Disorganization</i>	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 higher rates of juvenile crime and drug selling.
<i>Low Neighborhood Attachment</i>	A low level of bonding to the neighborhood is related to higher levels of juvenile crime and drug selling.
<i>Laws and Norms Favorable Toward Drug Use</i>	Research has shown that legal restrictions on alcohol and tobacco use, such as raising the legal drinking age, restricting smoking in public places, and increased taxation have been followed by decreases in consumption. Moreover, national surveys of high school seniors have shown that shifts in normative attitudes toward drug use have preceded changes in prevalence of use.
<i>Perceived Availability of Drugs</i>	The availability of cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, and other illegal drugs has been related to the use of these substances by adolescents.
<i>Community Domain Protective Factors</i>	
<i>Opportunities for Positive Involvement</i>	When opportunities are available in a community for positive participation, children are less likely to engage in substance use and other problem behaviors.
<i>Rewards for Positive Involvement</i>	Rewards for positive participation in activities helps children bond to the community, thus lowering their risk for substance use.
<i>Family Domain Risk Factors</i>	
<i>Exposure to Adult Antisocial Behavior</i>	When children are raised in a family or are around adults with a history of problem behaviors (e.g., violence or ATOD use), the children are more likely to engage in these behaviors.
<i>Sibling Drug Use</i>	Youth who are raised in a family where their siblings use drugs are more likely to use drugs themselves.
<i>Family Conflict</i>	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.
<i>Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Antisocial Behavior & Drugs</i>	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 abusers during adolescence. The risk is further increased if parents involve children in their own drug (or alcohol) using behavior, for example, asking the child to light the parent's cigarette or get the parent a beer from the refrigerator.
<i>Poor Family Management</i>	Parents' use of inconsistent and/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 they will engage in drug abuse whether or not there are family drug problems
<i>Family Domain Protective Factors</i>	
<i>Family Attachment</i>	Young people who feel that they are a valued part of their family are less likely to engage in substance use and other problem behaviors.
<i>Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement</i>	Young people who are exposed to more opportunities to participate meaningfully in the responsibilities and activities of the family are less likely to engage in drug use and other problem behaviors.
<i>Rewards for Prosocial Involvement</i>	When parents, siblings, and other family members praise, encourage, and attend to things done well by their child, children are less likely to engage in substance use and problem behaviors.
<i>School Domain Risk Factors</i>	
<i>Academic Failure</i>	Beginning in the late elementary grades (grades 4-6) academic failure increases the risk of both drug abuse and delinquency. It appears that the experience of failure itself, for whatever reasons, increases the risk of problem behaviors.
<i>Low Commitment to School</i>	Surveys of high school seniors have shown that the use of hallucinogens, cocaine, heroin, stimulants, and sedatives or non-medically prescribed tranquilizers 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.

<i>School Domain Protective Factors</i>	
<i>Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement</i>	When young people are given more opportunities to participate meaningfully in important activities at school, they are less likely to engage in drug use and other problem behaviors.
<i>Rewards for Prosocial Involvement</i>	When young people are recognized and rewarded for their contributions at school, they are less likely to be involved in substance use and other problem behaviors
<i>Peer-Individual Risk Factors</i>	
<i>Early Initiation of Antisocial Behavior and Drug Use</i>	Early onset of drug use predicts misuse of drugs. The earlier the onset of any drug use, the greater the involvement in other drug use and the greater frequency of use. Onset of drug use prior to the age of 15 is a consistent predictor of drug abuse, and a later age of onset of drug use has been shown to predict lower drug involvement and a greater probability of discontinuation of use.
<i>Attitudes Favorable Toward Antisocial Behavior and Drug Use</i>	During the elementary school years, most children express anti-drug, anti-crime, and pro-social attitudes and have difficulty imagining why people use drugs or engage in antisocial behaviors. However, in middle school, as more youth are exposed to others who use drugs and engage in antisocial behavior, their attitudes often shift toward greater acceptance of these behaviors. Youth who express positive attitudes toward drug use and antisocial behavior are more likely to engage in a variety of problem behaviors, including drug use.
<i>Friends' Use of Drugs</i>	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 that problem developing.
<i>Interaction with Antisocial Peers</i>	Young people who associate with peers who engage in problem behaviors are at higher risk for engaging in antisocial behavior themselves.
<i>Perceived Risk of Drug Use</i>	Young people who do not perceive drug use to be risky are far more likely to engage in drug use.
<i>Rewards for Antisocial Behavior</i>	Young people who receive rewards for their antisocial behavior are at higher risk for engaging further in antisocial behavior and substance use.
<i>Rebelliousness</i>	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, high tolerance for deviance, a strong need for independence and normlessness have all been linked with drug use.
<i>Depressive Symptoms</i>	Young people who are depressed are overrepresented in the criminal justice system and are more likely to use drugs. Survey research and other studies have shown a link between depression and other youth problem behaviors.
<i>Gang Involvement</i>	Youth who belong to gangs are more at risk for antisocial behavior and drug use.
<i>Peer-Individual Protective Factors</i>	
<i>Religiosity</i>	Young people who regularly attend religious services are less likely to engage in problem behaviors.
<i>Social Skills</i>	Young people who are socially competent and engage in positive interpersonal relations with their peers are less likely to use drugs and engage in other problem behaviors.
<i>Belief in the Moral Order</i>	Young people who have a belief in what is "right" or "wrong" are less likely to use drugs.
<i>Prosocial Involvement</i>	Participation in positive school and community activities helps provide protection for youth.
<i>Rewards for Prosocial</i>	Young people who view working hard in school and the community as rewarding are less likely to engage in problem behavior.