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Survey Research & Evaluation Services

2017 Prevention Needs Assessment Survey

Summary of Profile Report

for:

Westfield Public Schools

Sponsored By:

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This report presents a brief summary of the Westfield Public Schools Profile Report compiled from the 2017 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 Westfield Public Schools PNA included a survey of students in the 8th, 10th and 12th grades. A total of 951 surveys were found to be valid and honest. The male students totaled 48.0% of those surveyed and 52.0% were female. The 8th grade students contributed 35.0% of the utilized surveys, the 10th grade students contributed 35.1%, and the 12th graders contributed 29.9%. Students who identified themselves as White contributed 80.3% of the surveys, Hispanic 7.2%, Asian 3.6%, African American 2.0%, Native American 0.7%, Pacific Islander 0.3%, and Multi-Racial or Other 5.8%.

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use

Alcohol - Lifetime and 30-day Use:

Alcohol is by far the most-used substance in all grades, with 42.7% of students overall having experimented with drinking, and 27.0% overall using it more regularly. 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.

For lifetime alcohol use, the 12th grade reported the highest rate of drinking with 65.6%, 4.4 points higher than the national average from Monitoring the Future (MTF.) The 10th grade had 46.1% (2.7 points higher than MTF) and 8th graders reported 20.1% experimenting with alcohol, which was 2.7 points lower than national rates. It was also the most-reported substance in each grade that young people said they had tried at least once.

For past-month alcohol use, the pattern is similar to lifetime use as might be expected, but at a lower rate. Data show the 12th grade at 47.0% using alcohol in the last 30 days, quite a bit above the MTF rates at 14.2 points higher. The 10th grade was 7.3 points higher than the national norm at 27.2% and the 8th grade also reported higher rates than their counterparts nationwide at 9.8% (2.5 points above MTF rates.)

With alcohol use trending higher in Westfield than among other students across the country in both lifetime (42.7%, 0.8 points higher than MTF) and 30-day (27.0%, 7.2 points higher than MTF) use, this will be an area to pay close attention to with any prevention efforts. Of the children in the area who experiment with drinking, roughly more than half of those (and as high as 71.6% of those in the 12th grade) pick up the habit.

Alcohol - Binge Drinking:

PNA Survey data show that 4.4% of 8th graders reported binge drinking (consuming 5 or more drinks in a row) in the past two weeks; however, binge drinking in Westfield roughly triples with each successive grade surveyed with the 10th grade reporting 12.8% of survey participants binge drinking, and the 12th grade indicating a rate of 30.3%. The overall rate of binge drinking for 2017 was 15.1%.

All scores were significantly higher than national averages, with the 12th grade being nearly double what would be expected. What the data conclude in this particular category is that when youth in Westfield are drinking, a majority of regular drinkers are also having several drinks in one setting, increasing the risk of concerning outcomes associated with that behavior.

Cigarettes:

Unlike alcohol use, cigarette smoking in Westfield is well below the national average among all grades for both lifetime and 30-day rates. While still among the top three substances that young people experiment with, cigarettes have fallen to third with only 11.6% of students overall trying smoking. The grade with the highest lifetime rate use remains 12th grade with 20.3% (8 points lower than MTF), followed by 10th grade at 10.8% (6.7 points below MTF) and 8th grade at 4.8% (5 points below MTF.)

When it comes to more regular smoking, Westfield only reports 3.2% of students surveyed using cigarettes in the past month (2.7 points below the national average) and among 12th graders (5.5%), smoking cigarettes isn't even among the top three substances used regularly falling 1.2 points behind chewing tobacco in terms of popularity. Even students who do smoke with some degree of regularity don't seem to be developing a severe habit of nicotine use with less than one percent of those surveyed smoking ½ a pack of cigarettes or more per day.

Marijuana:

Typically the 12th grade shows the highest rate of use across most, if not all, substances. However, marijuana is one drug in which 10th grade use comes very close to 12th grade use rates in Westfield. Marijuana use rates remain the lowest in 8th grade (11.3% lifetime, 8.3% 30-day), but the past-month rate for this age group is 2.9 points higher than MTF for 8th graders across the country.

The 10th grade has the most striking numbers, though (32.7% lifetime, 20.8% 30-day) with both rates higher than national norms. They only lag slightly behind the 12th grade students' use rates (40.7% lifetime, 23.4% 30-day), which is atypical for most other areas. It appears from the data that in Westfield, MA marijuana use sees a stronger rise earlier among high school students and they maintain these rates as they progress through to senior year.

Higher 30-day use rates in all grades indicate that, of the students who use marijuana, more become regular users than in other parts of the country. It is easily the second most popular drug of choice for students in Westfield as well.

Inhalants:

Inhalant use is often most prevalent in younger grades due to the easy availability of products in the home or for purchase at most stores and the increased difficulty for students at that age to obtain more illicit substances.

In the 8th grade, 56.3% of students believed it would be “Sort of Hard” or “Very Hard” to obtain alcohol, and even greater numbers thought they would have the same level of difficulty getting other illicit drugs (91.9%) or marijuana (63.8%). Students in the 10th grade found getting ATODs much easier with only 41.7% reporting it would be “Sort of Hard” or “Very Hard” to get alcohol, 82.7% for other illicit drugs, and 41.4% for marijuana. By the time students reach 12th grade, these numbers drop to 31.0% for alcohol, 74.6% for other drugs and only 36.4% thought they might have some difficulty obtaining marijuana.

Westfield School District is a bit of an anomaly in that inhalant use peaks in the 10th grade (5.4% lifetime, 1.3% 30-day) and remains higher in 12th grade (4.4% lifetime, 0.4% 30-day) than in 8th grade (2.5% lifetime, 0.3% 30-day). It may be that other factors besides accessibility are driving inhalant use among older Westfield students.

Heroin, Cocaine and Methamphetamine:

In regard to heroin use, a positive statistic is that no 8th graders report using the drug. This is not out of the ordinary, even though it is slightly lower than Monitoring the Future numbers. What is remarkable and may need addressing is the fact that in 10th and 12th grades, as well as overall, heroin use outpaces national rates.

This pattern is echoed with cocaine and methamphetamine as well, with 8th graders reporting zero use, but 12th grade and especially 10th grade showing higher-than-average use rates in some areas. 10th grade lifetime use rates of Heroin (0.9%) and 12th grade lifetime use rates of Heroin (2.6%), Methamphetamine (1.9%) and Cocaine (5.2%) are all above the norm and 30-day rates for the 10th grade of Heroin (1.0%), Cocaine (0.6%) and Methamphetamines (0.3%) also score higher than the MTF, as do 12th grade 30-day use rates for Heroin (1.1%), Cocaine (1.9%) and Methamphetamine (0.4%).

While these percentages may seem like a low portion of the total students in the district, they represent use that in some cases is more than double the national average and due to the devastating nature of these harder drugs should not be ignored. The absence of use in the 8th grade points to the period between 8th and 10th grade as a key time for intervention before students start to experiment with these substances.

Energy Drinks:

Although there is currently no MTF data on energy drink use, it is common to see high rates of use of these highly available and heavily marketed beverages among teens. This does not seem to be the case in the district with less than half of students reporting drinking energy drinks regularly – in fact, in the 12th grade alcohol is more popular.

Antisocial Behavior

Overall, antisocial behavior in Westfield is quite low with the highest score for students who reported being drunk or high at school being just above 10 percent. All overall scores were below national rates with some like “Attacked Someone with the Idea of Seriously Hurting Them” (5.9%) and “Been Arrested” (2.4%) falling below half the BH Norm for youth in the United States at large.

One area outpacing the national average is “Been Drunk or High at School” in the 10th grade. A total of 16.0% of Westfield 10th graders reported engaging in this behavior in the past year, while only 14.7% of youth nationwide said they did the same. This coincides with the higher ATOD use numbers reported above, but provides the additional detail that this drug use continues even as these students attend school.

Other areas surpassing the BH Norm by at least a full percentage point in the 10th grade were “Sold Illegal Drugs” (8.2%, 1 point above BH Norm), and in the 12th grade, “Carried a Handgun” (6.8%) was 1.3 points higher than the BH Norm.

Gambling

According to student responses, gambling is not very widespread in Westfield School District. Only 30.7% of students in all grades combined admitted to any type of gambling behavior in the past year compared with 44.3% of youth nationwide. All types of gambling fell below the BH Norm in 8th and 10th grades, but in the 12th grade gambling on the Internet (6.3%), playing the lottery (33.5%), betting on video poker (5.9%) and betting on horses (7.1%) all scored above average.

The most popular gambling activities overall were playing the lottery (19.1%), betting on sports (12.4%), and betting on cards (8.6%), which is consistent with the most popular gambling activities among students in other areas of the country.

Risk Factors

Youth in Westfield School District 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 (defined as the percentage of students who have more than a specified number of risk factors operating in their lives –8 or more in the 8th grade, and 9 or more in the 10th & 12th grades) is at a low in 8th grade (41.7%) but it is somewhat higher than the 8-state norm of 36.7%. Students in the 10th and 12th grades are also above the 8-state norm for youth identified as high risk at a rate of 47.0% for Westfield 10th graders and 47.5% of Westfield 12th graders. For easy reference, the risk factors are outlined in this summary in Table 1.

Community Domain:

There are only two scales in the Community Domain: “Laws & Norms Favor Drug Use” and “Perceived Availability of Drugs.” All scale scores for “Perceived Availability of Drugs” were below the BH norm and consistently showed about 30% of students at risk. Conversely, overall scores for students at risk for “Laws & Norms Favor Drug Use” were higher than the norm (49.1%, 5.7 points above the BH Norm) as well as scores for the 10th grade (48.4%, 6.1 points higher) and 12th grade (60.2%, 12.1 points higher.)

Family Domain:

The 10th grade scored as most at-risk out of all three grades surveyed in two-thirds of the scales in the Family Domain: “Parent Attitudes Favor Antisocial Behavior” (48.8%), “Parent Attitudes Favor Drug Use” (46.5%), “Family Conflict” (43.1%), and Exposure to Adult Antisocial Behavior” (41.2%). When examining the higher use rates and problem behavior rates in the 10th grade, it is worth noting the sizable majority of scales that this grade showed the most students at risk in both the Family Domain and in the Peer-Individual Domain discussed below.

The other two scale scores showed the 12th grade as most at-risk for “Poor Family Management” (40.2%) and “Sibling Drug Use” (42.7%).

Only one scale showed across-the-board higher than average scores of being at risk: “Parent Attitudes Favor Drug Use”, however on a positive note, this was the only scale to score higher than the BH Norm among students overall.

School Domain:

For each of the scales in the School Domain, the 12th grade exhibited the highest scores, both in “Academic Failure” (44.0%) and “Low Commitment to School” (58.2%). Scores for “Low Commitment to School” were also higher than the BH Norm overall and for each grade surveyed. The 8th grade scored 55.0% at risk, 9.9 points higher, the 10th grade scored 49.4%, 8.3 points higher, and the 12th grade’s score of 58.2% was 16.1 percentage points higher than the norm.

Peer-Individual Domain:

Examining the results for the Peer-Individual Domain, two areas stand out and bear some discussion. The first, “Perceived Risk of Drug Use,” relates closely to the alcohol and drug use statistics cited earlier in this report. When students don’t feel using these substances poses a significant risk to their health or well-being, they are more likely to try them. The percentages of students scoring as at-risk in this particular scale were close to or well above 50% ranging from 49.7% in the 8th grade to 72.8% in the 10th grade. The 10th grade also had the largest difference over the BH Norm of 20.9 points. These scores point to a lack of understanding among Westfield students of the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

The PNA Survey asks students to indicate how risky they feel it is to use certain substances. These questions feed into the “Perceived Risk of Drug Use” risk factor scale and determine the percent of students who are at-risk due to this issue. When asked about how much risk of harming themselves an individual takes when using different substances, fewer than half (42.9%) saw “Great Risk” in drinking alcohol regularly, the same with binge drinking (43.6%). For marijuana use, only 15.9% saw trying marijuana as a “Great Risk,” occasional marijuana smoking only increased the number to 24.7%, and regular marijuana use was only seen as a “Great Risk” by 32.8% of students.

Compare this with 65.9% of students seeing “Great Risk” in smoking one or more packs of cigarettes in a day or 63.5% feeling the same way about using prescription drugs that have not been prescribed to them. Use for these two substances was extremely low, coinciding with the students’ view that they represent a detriment to their health. One challenge for prevention efforts in the district will be to instill a similar respect for the dangers of marijuana and alcohol.

The second scale in which scores were higher than the BH Norm overall and for all grades was “Rewards for Antisocial Behavior.” Both 10th and 12th grades had the same percentage of students at risk (55.0%) and the 8th grade followed closely with 48.3%. It is interesting that with Westfield’s scores on this scale, the greatest disparity between the scores in the district and the scores nationwide were in the 8th grade (48.3%, 13.2 points higher than the BH Norm) and trending downwards in each successive grade surveyed with the 10th grade being 8.3 points higher and the 12th grade just 3.5 points higher than average.

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 55.7% with high protection in the 10th grade to as high as 62.5% with high protection in the 8th grade. The 8th graders were 18.2 points higher in protection than the 8-state norm of 43.3%; in addition, students in all other grades had higher rates of high-protection in comparison to the 8-state norm. Recall that higher percentages are better for the protective factors.

Community Domain:

The 8th grade scored the highest for protection in the lone scale for the Community Domain, “Rewards for Prosocial Involvement” at 39.9%. However, this and all scores for this scale fell at least 10 points below the BH Norm, with the largest margin being in the 10th grade (27.9%) of 17.3 points. This domain’s scores also lagged behind the Family, School and Peer-Individual domains for “Rewards for Prosocial Involvement,” the others scoring near or above 50% for that scale. Involving the community in prevention efforts as another partner in incentivizing youth to stay away from substance abuse and to act in ways that make their lives and community better is a way to potentially increase protection among Westfield students.

Family Domain:

Consistent scores above 50% in every grade for each scale make the Family Domain a strongpoint for Westfield when it comes to protection. “Family Attachment” exhibited students with the most protection with scores of 64.1% in the 8th grade, 60.1% in the 10th grade, and 63.3% in the 12th grade. The district was 6.1 points above the BH Norm overall for this measure.

The 8th grade scored the highest for “Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement” with 68.8% reporting protection, while the highest score for “Rewards for Prosocial Involvement” was 51.9% in the 12th grade. While the scores in this domain overall were higher, the trend for “Rewards for Prosocial Involvement” to fall consistently below (or in a couple of cases barely keep pace with) the BH Norm in all the protective factor domains points to a need to find ways to encourage students in all aspects of life and reinforce positive behavior in noticeable ways.

School Domain:

Protection scores in the School Domain, while fairly strong, did not hold up to those from students in other parts of the country. Overall, 49.7% of students in Westfield reported protection for “Opportunity for Prosocial Involvement” at school while the BH Norm was 13.7 points higher at 63.4%. Things looked similar for “Rewards for Prosocial Involvement” with 56.0% reporting protection overall compared with a norm of 64.6%. The 10th grade had the highest score for “Opportunity for Prosocial Involvement” with 51.5% and the 12th grade’s score of 62.1% placed it at the top of “Rewards for Prosocial Involvement” in the School Domain.

Peer-Individual Domain:

In the Peer-Individual Domain, we see a repeat of the same lower scores for “Rewards for Prosocial Involvement” as in the other domains. The overall score for protection in this scale was 49.2%, 5.2 points below average. Another area with even lower scores when compared to the BH Norm was “Interaction with Prosocial Peers” where the 8th grade’s score of 38.1%, the 10th grade’s 33.8%, and the 12th grade’s reported protection of 41.2% were all at least 15 points below the national rate. This scale’s score were all squarely below the 50.0% mark as well making it, as well as “Religiosity,” the lowest scoring scales in this domain.

More encouraging scores were given for “Belief in the Moral Order” and “Prosocial Involvement.” The 8th grade’s protection score of 72.4% in “Belief in the Moral Order” was the highest score for any scale for any grade. The 10th grade was slightly above the BH Norm with its score of 56.5%, and the 12th grade, while 1.9 points shy of the 8-state Norm, still reported over half of seniors having protection in this area with a score of 53.7%.

“Prosocial Involvement” had the second-highest score of 56.1%, with all grades reporting protection scores in this scale of over 50.0%. Once again, 8th grade was the highest at 61.7%, 3.6 points higher 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 always match reality. It’s usually the case that far fewer kids use alcohol, drugs and other substances than their peers assume. This erroneous perception has the potential to increase drug use. When young people believe “everyone is doing it,” it makes it that much more difficult to refuse alcohol and drugs when they are offered. In Westfield SD, 67.0% of youth said that if they had drank alcohol in the past year, they got it at a party. In these types of social situations, it can be difficult to refuse if a student believes that a majority of their peers are drinking. However, making them aware that a very small number of their classmates actually drink or use drugs can help alleviate some of that social pressure when tough decisions arise.

The best interpretation and application of this data comes from comparing perceived use in relation to students’ responses to 30-day substance use questions. For example, 62.2% of 12th graders thought at least half the students in their grade smoked marijuana regularly, but the actual data show that it is less than a quarter of students surveyed (23.4%.) The same was true for the 10th grade, where 62.3% of students thought the majority of their peers smoked marijuana regularly but in reality only about 1 in 5 (20.8%) had used it in the past month.

Another area with similar misperceptions was alcohol use, where in the 8th grade only a “Few,” (9.8%) used alcohol in the past 30 days, but 61.9% of students thought that rate was higher. In the 10th grade, only 27.2% of students drank alcohol regularly, but 34.9% of kids thought that “Most (71-90%)” or “Almost All (91-100%)” of other sophomores

drank in the past month. Even in the 12th grade which had the highest alcohol use rate at 47.0%, a full 52.5% of seniors thought the rate of drinking among their peers was at least 71.0% or higher. Combating these prevalent misperceptions with facts can help with prevention efforts by showing Westfield youth that NOT using actually puts them solidly in the majority of most of their friends and classmates.

Reference: Westfield Public Schools Prevention Needs Assessment Profile Report, 2017. 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.