

## Risk Factors that Predict Adolescent Problem Behaviors

Intensive research has identified risk factors that can reliably predict six adolescent problem behaviors. These risk factors are based on a review of over 30 years of research across a variety of disciplines and are subject to the most rigorous research criteria. Risk factors must have been shown, in multiple longitudinal studies, to be reliable predictors of one of the six adolescent problem behaviors. The chart below displays these risk factors and the problem behaviors they predict.

<b>Risk Factors for Adolescent Problem Behavior</b>						
Risk Factors	SUBSTANCE ABUSE	DELINQUENCY	TEEN PREGNANCY	SCHOOL DROPOUT	VIOLENCE	DEPRESSION & ANXIETY
<b>COMMUNITY</b>						
Availability of drugs	✓				✓	
Availability of firearms		✓			✓	
Community laws and norms favorable toward drug use, firearms, and crime	✓	✓			✓	
Media portrayals of violence					✓	
Transitions and mobility	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Low neighborhood attachment and community disorganization	✓	✓			✓	
Extreme economic deprivation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<b>FAMILY</b>						
Family history of the problem behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Family management problems	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Family conflict	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Favorable parental attitudes and involvement in the problem behavior	✓	✓			✓	
<b>SCHOOL</b>						
Academic failure beginning in late elementary school	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lack of commitment to school	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<b>INDIVIDUAL/PEER</b>						
Early and persistent antisocial behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rebelliousness	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Friends who engage in the problem behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Favorable attitudes toward the problem behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Early initiation of the problem behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Constitutional factors	✓	✓			✓	✓