



MSAPC Protective and Risk Factors Fact Sheet

In efforts to prevent and reduce alcohol and other drug use among children and youth the Mayor’s Substance Abuse Prevention Council employed the evidenced based and result driven risk and protective factor framework developed by (Hawkins and Catalano) to address in the Providence communities the alcohol, tobacco and other drug use risks targeting children and youth. The primary goal of the Mayor’s Substance Abuse Prevention Council is to lead the way as the drug, tobacco and alcohol prevention voice and policy making body and to promote the health and wellness of individuals and communities.

Protective Factors (“assets”) are conditions that buffer children and youth from exposure to risk by either reducing the impact of the risks or changing the way that young people respond to risks. Protective factors identified by research are: Strong bonding to family, school, community and peers; Healthy beliefs and clear standards for behavior; and individual characteristics.

Risk factors are conditions that increase the probability that children and youth become involved in problem behaviors like alcohol and other drug use, delinquency, school dropout, teen pregnancy and violence.

Key Risk and Protective Factors:

Using the Hawkins and Catalano prevention model the MSAPC has identified key risk and protective factors impacting Providence youth. As mentioned, “risk factors” are any circumstances that may increase the likelihood of youth engaging in risky behaviors. The “protective factors” are any circumstances that promote healthy youth behaviors and decrease the chance that youth will engage in risky behaviors. The Council performed an extensive data analysis and identified the following risk and protective factors that will form the basis of all Providence prevention efforts:

RISK FACTOR	DOMAIN	PROTECTIVE FACTOR
Lack of Parental Supervision	Family	Parental Monitoring
Early Substance Use	Peer	Parent Engagement and Education
Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Availability	Community	Police Compliance and Enforcement
Low Perception of Risk and Harm		Connection to the Community
		Prevention Education