

Risk Factors

Below are a few sample risk factors that could put kids at risk for substance abuse. What examples could you cite within your own community? Consider all areas—community, family, schools, and individuals.

Area	Sample Factors	Cite Examples From Your Community
Community	Most people don't get involved.	
	Adults look the other way when kids engage in risky behavior.	
	The community is unstable/transient.	
	The community has high unemployment.	
Family	Child abuse is high.	
	Social occasions usually involve alcohol.	
	Parents expect teens to experiment with drugs and sex.	
	Parents are often too busy to keep up with where their children are.	
Schools	Drugs and alcohol are readily available.	
	Schools have no programs for students struggling with school.	
	There is a high dropout rate.	
	Students are transient.	
Individual	Most teens believe it's okay to drink or smoke or do marijuana.	
	Kids exhibit signs of early sexual preoccupation and activity.	
	There are not a lot of fun and legal things for kids to do.	
	Kids prove they are "cool" by cutting class, shoplifting, and breaking rules.	

Protective Factors

Below are sample protective factors that could help prevent substance abuse. What examples could you cite within your own community? Consider all areas—community, family, schools, and individuals.

Area	Sample Factors	Cite Examples From Your Community
Community	This is a good community in which to raise a family.	
	This is a stable community.	
	There are a wide variety of community activities for young people.	
	There are active anti-crime and anti-drugs community groups.	
Family	Most families have rules, which they consistently and fairly enforce.	
	Most parents are involved in family activities.	
	Many families are active together on the weekends.	
	Parents attend their children's school events.	
Schools	The district has clear rules about student behavior, fairly and consistently enforced.	
	There is a wide range of activities for students to be involved in.	
	There are many formal and informal student recognition activities.	
	Students who are having difficulties—academic or social—can get the extra help necessary for them to be successful.	
Individual	The majority of young people believe it's important to graduate from high school.	
	Drug-free activities are popular and well attended.	
	There is an active peer helper group in the middle and high schools.	