Risk and Protective Factor Framework

The following graph supports a public health model using a theoretical framework of risk reduction and protection enhancement. Developments in prevention and intervention science have shown that there are characteristics of individuals and their families and their environment (i.e., community neighborhood, school) that affect the likelihood of negative outcomes including substance abuse, delinquency, violence, and school dropout. Other characteristics serve to protect or provide a buffer to moderate the influence of the negative characteristics. These characteristics are identified as risk factors and protective factors. (Arthur, Hawkins, et al., 1994, Hawkins, Catalano, Miller, 1992).

Domains	Risk Factors	Adolescent Problem Behaviors						Protective Factors	Social Development Model (SDM)
	Risk factors are characteristics of individuals, their family, school, and community environments that are associated with increases in alcohol and other drug use, delinquency, teen pregnancy, school dropout, and violence. The following factors have been identified that increase the likelihood that children and youth may develop such problem behaviors.	Substance Abuse	Depression & Anxiety	Delinquency	Teen Pregnancy	School Drop-Out	Violence	*Factors associated with reduced potential for drug use are called protective factors. Protective factors encompass family, social, psychological, and behavioral characteristics that can provide a buffer for the children and youth. These factors mitigate the effects of risk factors that are present in the child or youth's environment.*	*SDM is a synthesis of three existing theories of criminology (control, social learning, and differential association). It incorporates the results of research on risk and protective factors for problem behaviors and a developmental perspective of age, specific problem, and prosocial behavior. It is based on the assumption that children learn behaviors.*
Community	Availability of alcohol/other drugs	✔					✔	Opportunities for prosocial involvement in community Recognition for prosocial involvement	
	Availability of Firearms			✔			✔		
	Community laws and norms favorable to drug use, firearms, and crime	✔		✔			✔		
	Transitions and mobility	✔	✔	✔		✔			
	Low neighborhood attachment and community disorganization	✔		✔			✔		
	Media Portrayals of Violence						✔		
	Extreme economic deprivation	✔		✔	✔	✔	✔		
Family	Family history of the problem behavior	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	Bonding to family with healthy beliefs and clear standards. Attachment to family with healthy beliefs & clear standards Opportunities for prosocial involvement Recognition for prosocial involvement	
	Family management problems	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		
	Family conflict	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		
	Favorable parental attitudes and involvement in problem behaviors	✔		✔			✔		
School	Academic failure beginning in late elementary school	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	Bonding and Attachment to School Opportunities for prosocial involvement Recognition for prosocial involvement	
	Lack of commitment to school	✔		✔	✔	✔	✔		
Individual / Peer	Early and persistent antisocial behavior	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	Bonding to peers with healthy beliefs and clear standards. Attachment to peers with healthy beliefs & clear standards Opportunities for prosocial involvement Increase in Social skills	
	Rebelliousness	✔		✔		✔			
	Friends who engage in the problem behavior	✔		✔	✔	✔	✔		
	Favorable attitudes toward the problem behavior (including low perceived risk of harm)	✔		✔	✔	✔			
	Early initiation of the problem behavior	✔		✔	✔	✔	✔		
	Gang Involvement	✔		✔			✔		
	Constitutional factors	✔	✔	✔			✔		