

Handout:
Factors Influencing Potential for Substance Use

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Domain	Risk Factors	Protective Factors
Child Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor conflict management skills • Poor social skills • Impulsivity • Favorable attitudes toward substance use • Early initiation of oppositional behavior • Low school readiness • Language delays and learning disabilities • Attention deficit disorder • Difficult temperament, easily frustrated, difficulty in self-soothing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social competence (responsiveness, cultural flexibility, empathy, caring, communication skills, and a sense of humor) • Autonomy (sense of identity, self-efficacy, self-awareness, task-mastery, and adaptive distancing from negative messages and conditions) • Sense of purpose and belief in a bright future (goal direction, educational aspirations, optimism, faith, and spiritual connectedness) • Problem-solving (planning, teamwork, and critical and creative thinking)
School and Peer Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ineffective teacher responses • Use of substances among peers • Classroom aggression • Peer rejection • Academic failure beginning in late elementary school • Truancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear classroom management • Norm of positive behavior among peers • Positive social opportunities • Social bonding • Social skills competency • Academic achievement • Regular school attendance
Parenting Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harsh and ineffective parenting skills • Favorable parental attitudes towards substance use and own use • Poor monitoring • Poor parent and child attachment • Low cognitive stimulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistency in rule enforcement • Reinforcement of positive social involvement • Careful and appropriate parental monitoring • Strong parental bonding
Contextual and Family Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marital discord • Family management problems (e.g., creating and following family rules and rituals) • Family conflict/abuse • Parent criminal activity • Parent substance abuse/history of substance use • Older children who are using substances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supportive family bonding • Reinforcement for positive social involvement • Positive family dynamics • No tobacco and other substance use/abuse in family • Extended family networks

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life stressors • Parent mental illness 	
Community Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low neighborhood attachment and community disorganization • Community norms (favorable toward drug use) • Transitional communities (e.g., frequent changes in neighborhood members resulting in low cohesion) • Availability of drugs • Extreme economic deprivation • Poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community connection and supports • Healthy beliefs and clear standards • Community-supported substance abuse prevention efforts and programs • Availability of constructive recreation • Careful and appropriate monitoring of youth's activities

Adapted from the **Partners for Substance Abuse Prevention Website** available at <http://preventionpartners.samhsa.gov/>