



DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

An effective juvenile justice system relies on a comprehensive approach which includes addressing the influences leading to delinquent behavior. In meeting its public safety responsibilities, Pennsylvania has been proactive and has shifted from a purely reactive approach to delinquency, in favor of one supporting programs and initiatives that promote positive youth development in efforts of preventing the occurrence of delinquency. In fact, delinquency prevention may be the most cost-effective component of the Juvenile Justice Enhancement Strategies (JSES).

Mission Statement: *Consistent with our balanced and restorative justice mission and recognizing prevention as part of the JSES, the Delinquency Diversion and Prevention Committee will work to advance and support juvenile probation involvement in Pennsylvania's delinquency prevention efforts.*

Primary prevention aims to prevent delinquency before it ever occurs.

Secondary prevention aims to reduce impact of delinquency that has already occurred.

Tertiary prevention, aims to soften impact of delinquency that has lasting effects.

As Juvenile Probation has historically employed secondary and tertiary prevention practices only, the Chiefs Council Prevention Committee will focus on upstream, primary prevention efforts to reduce or eliminate the risk factors which lead to delinquency.

Program Examples

Communities That Care (CTC)- <https://www.communitiesthatcare.net/>

Strengthening Families Program 10-14(SFP 10-14)- <https://strengtheningfamiliesprogram.org/>

Strong African American Families (SAAF) Program- <https://cfr.uga.edu/saaf-programs/>

Aavidum- <http://aavidum.com/cms/>

Project Towards No Drug Abuse (TND)- <https://tnd.usc.edu/>

Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS)- <http://www.pathstraining.com/main/>

Incredible Years Series(IY)- <https://www.incredibleyears.com/>

LifeSkills Training (LST)- <https://www.lifeskillstraining.com/>

Pennsylvania Youth Survey and Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System

- The Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) is sponsored and conducted every two years by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). The Commonwealth encourages school districts to allow the PAYS to be conducted with school students in the 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades to learn about their behavior, attitudes and knowledge concerning alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and violence. [https://www.pccd.pa.gov/Juvenile-Justice/Pages/Pennsylvania-Youth-Survey-\(PAYS\).aspx](https://www.pccd.pa.gov/Juvenile-Justice/Pages/Pennsylvania-Youth-Survey-(PAYS).aspx)
- The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBBS) monitors health behaviors that contribute markedly to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth in the United States. The YRBBS includes surveys of representative samples of 9th through 12th grade students. These surveys are conducted every two years. The national survey, conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/index.htm>
 - o The PAYS/YRBBS crosswalk is located at <http://epis.psu.edu/pays/yrbs-pays>



Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support (EPIS) at Penn State University has developed the following graph that shows a correlation with PAYS and the Youth Level of Service. These connections between traditional data and those used by juvenile justice practitioners can be to be used to collaborate on primary prevention efforts for youth.

High risk and low protective factors may later contribute to formal court system involvement.		Prior/Current Offenses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor Family Management Family Conflict 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Attachment Family Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement Family Rewards for Prosocial Involvement 	Family/Parenting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic Failure Low Commitment to School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement 	Education/ Employment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rewards for Antisocial Behavior Interaction with Antisocial Peers Gang Involvement 		Peer Relations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perceived Risk of Drug Use Friends' Use of Drugs Attitudes Favorable Toward Drug Use Perceived Availability of Drugs Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use 		Substance Use
Activities associated with Religiosity- like involvement in structured youth groups or community service- may be related to this domain.		Leisure/Recreation
There are no current risk/protective factors associated with this domain. Please see problem behaviors in the PAYS for insight into this domain.		Personality/Behavior
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebelliousness Attitudes Favorable to Antisocial Behavior Sensation Seeking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belief in the moral order 	Attitudes/Orientation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family History of Antisocial Behavior Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Drug Use Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Antisocial Behaviors 		Family Special Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Depression Symptoms Youth Perceived Availability of Handguns 		Youth Special Considerations

Resources

EPIS- <http://EPIS.psu.edu>

PCCD- https://www.pccd.pa.gov/Juvenile-Justice/Documents/Pre-Adjudication_Diversion_Policy_Guide.pdf

PCCD- <https://www.pccd.pa.gov/Juvenile-Justice/Pages/Juvenile-Justice-and-Delinquency-Prevention-Preventing-Delinquency.aspx>