



**Livingston County**  
**Prevention Needs Assessment Survey**  
**Report Highlights**

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## Introduction

In the fall of 2008 students in grades 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> participated in the Prevention Needs Assessment Youth Survey in 6 school districts. Passive consent to participate in the survey was used where parents were required to sign a non-participation form only if their child was **not** going to participate. A total of 2400 youth participated. The survey was sponsored by the Genesee Valley Health Partnership, Inc. To date 7 communities in Livingston County have administered the PNA or CTC survey; 6 of those communities were part of this re-survey project and 2 more will be surveyed in the Fall of 2009. The PNA survey is designed to identify the levels of risk factors related to problem behaviors such as use of alcohol and drugs and participation in antisocial behaviors such as attacking someone with intent to harm. It also is designed to measure actual prevalence and frequency of drug use, violence and other antisocial behavior among those youth that participate. This survey report will help Livingston County communities to assess the risk and protective factors specific to its youth. The information will be used to guide prevention efforts, help address existing problems, improve existing services and programs and promote positive youth development.

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## Risk Factors and Protective Factors

The Risk and Protective Factor Model of Prevention is based on the simple premise that to prevent a problem from happening, we need to identify the factors that increase the risk of that problem developing and then find ways to reduce the risks. Just as medical researchers have found risk factors for heart disease such as diets high in fat, lack of exercise, and smoking; a team of researchers at the University of Washington have defined a set of risk factors for youth problem behaviors. Risk factors are characteristics of school, community, and family environments, as well as characteristics of youth and their peer groups that are known to predict increased likelihood of drug use, delinquency, school dropout, teen pregnancy, and violent behavior among youth. For the past 20 years Dr. J. David Hawkins, Dr. Richard F. Catalano, and their colleagues at the University of Washington, Social Development Research Group have investigated the relationship between risk and protective factors and youth problem behavior. For example, they have found that children who live in families with high levels of conflict are more likely to become involved in problem behaviors such as delinquency and drug use than children who live in families with low levels of conflict. Below is a table which shows risk factors in each domain and which antisocial behavior they effect:

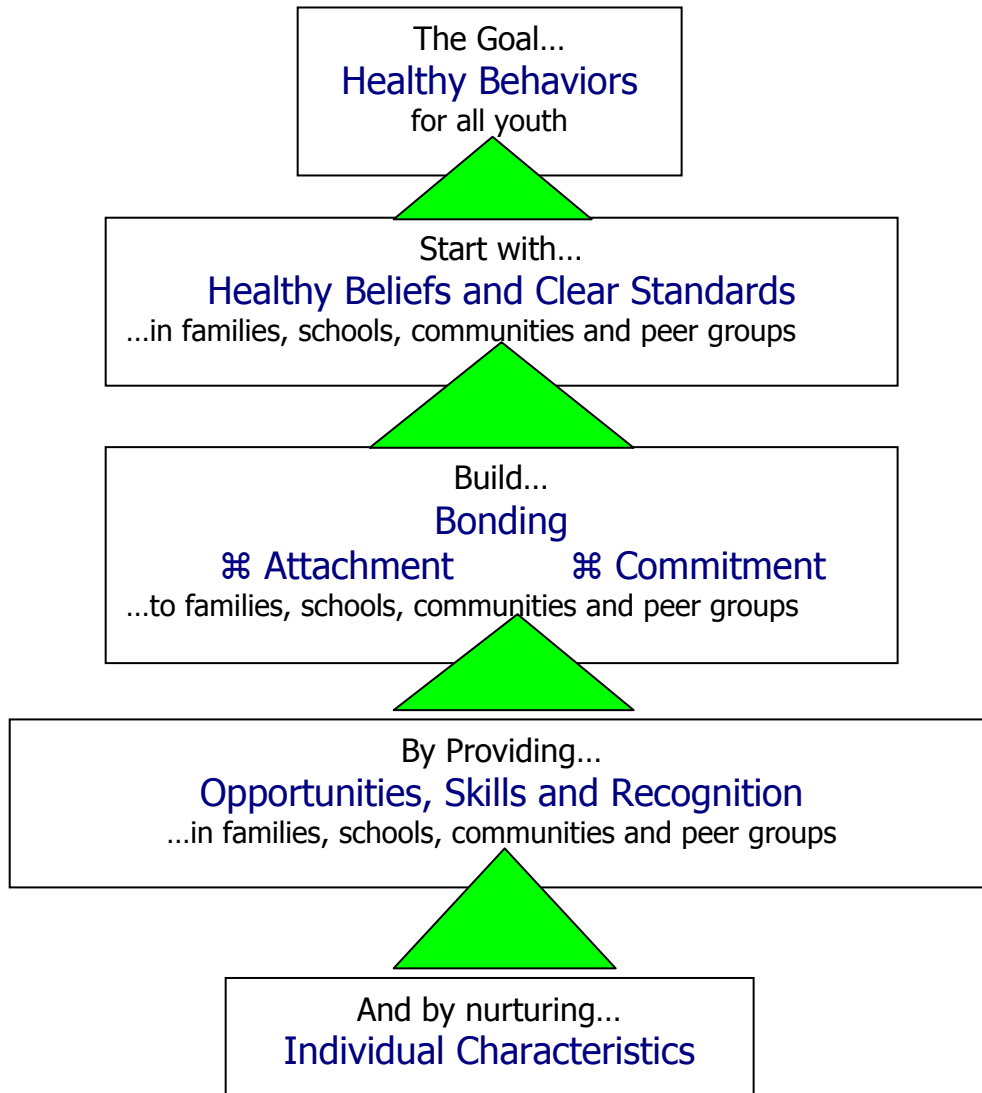
### Prevention Needs Assessment® Risk Factor/Problem Behaviors Chart

*\*\*The risk factors are numbered on the left side and the problem behaviors that the risk factor can lead to are marked by an X on the right side of the chart.*

Risk Factors	Adolescent Problem Behaviors				
Community	Substance Abuse	Delinquency	Teen Pregnancy	School Drop Out	Violence
1. Availability Of Drugs	X				X
2. Availability Of Firearms		X			X
3. Community Laws And Norms Favorable Toward Drug Use, Firearms And Crime	X	X			X
4. Community Disorganization	X	X			X
5. Transitions And Mobility	X	X		X	
6. Low Neighborhood Attachment	X	X			X
7. Extreme Economic Deprivation	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Family</b>					
8. Family History Of Problem Behavior	X	X	X	X	X
9. Family Management Problems	X	X	X	X	X
10. Family Conflict	X	X	X	X	X
11. Favorable Parental Attitudes And Involvement In The Problem Behavior	X	X			X
<b>School</b>					
12. Academic Failure Beginning In Late Elementary School	X	X	X	X	X
13. Lack Of Commitment To School	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Peer and Individual</b>					
14. Early And Persistent Antisocial Behavior	X	X	X	X	X
15. Rebelliousness	X	X		X	
16. Friends Who Use Drugs/ Engage In The Problem Behavior	X	X	X	X	X
17. Favorable Attitudes Toward Drug Use/Problem Behavior	X	X	X	X	
18. Perceived Risks Of Drug Use	X				
19. Peer Reward For Drug Use	X				
20. Depressive Symptoms	X				

## Protective Factors

Protective factors or also known as assets are conditions that exist in a child's life that helps to buffer them from engaging in problem behaviors. This can happen in two ways. One by lowering the impact that the risk factors have or by changing the way youth respond to risks. Protective factors are also present in the community, school, family and peer groups.



## Methodology

### *Administration*

The Prevention Needs Assessment Youth Survey® was administered to all participating youth in each school's scheduled administration date simultaneously to avoid the possibility of youth talking to peers about the survey prior to administration. All youth were ensured that the survey was voluntary and confidential and that they have the freedom to choose not to answer any question they do not wish to answer. The survey was administered in a classroom at a designated period and the survey took one full classroom period to complete.

### *Survey Validation*

There are five strategies used to assess the validity of the surveys. Below are the 5 reasons that a survey taker may be deemed dishonest thus making the survey invalid:

- 1) the students indicated that they were "Not Honest At All" in completing the survey (Last question)
- 2) the students indicated that they had used the non-existent drug phenoxydine
- 3) the students reported an impossibly high level of multiple drug use (over 120 times in the past month)
- 4) the students indicated past-month use rates that were higher than lifetime use rates;
- 5) the students reported an age that was inconsistent with their grade or their school

Surveys meeting any of these criteria are not included in the final analyses. The usual percentages who are deemed dishonest in their responses is about 3%.

## Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Use Highlights

While in general the percentages of youth reporting use of alcohol and other drugs has decreased since the baseline measurement in 2005 there are still indicators that remain higher than national averages. This survey compares Livingston County use to National percentages according to the national Monitoring the Future study that is done each year with grades 8, 10 and 12. The Monitoring the Future study uses a generalizable sample of youth across the country. Below are some indicators that while they may have decreased are still higher than national averages and/or indicators that increased from the baseline measurement.

*\*\*Note: Lifetime use measures if a youth has ever used a substance while past 30 day use measures use within the past 30 days of survey administration. Binge drinking is defined as consuming 5 or more drinks in one sitting within the past 2 weeks of survey administration.*

Indicator	(2005) County Baseline	(2008) County	National (2007)
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lifetime Alcohol Use	85.7%	78.8%	73%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lifetime Smokeless Tobacco	21%	22.3	15%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lifetime Marijuana Use	50.9%	45.2%	42%
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lifetime Inhalants Use	8%	12%	16%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lifetime Inhalants Use	10%	11%	11%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lifetime Ecstasy Use	1.8%	3.7%	7%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lifetime Methamphetamine Use	1%	2.7%	3%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lifetime LSD/Psychedelic Use	6.6%	10%	3%
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lifetime Amphetamine Use	0%	1.2%	7%
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lifetime Sedative Use	2.7%	4.3%	9%
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lifetime Tranquilizer Use	0.7%	2.2%	4%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lifetime Steroid Use	0.5%	2.2%	3%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Past 30 Day Alcohol Use	55%	46%	44%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Binge Drinking	34%	33%	26%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Heavy Cigarette Use (1/2 pack/day)	10.7%	8.7%	6%
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Past 30 Day Smokeless Tobacco Use	3%	3.5%	3%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Past 30 Day Marijuana Use	25.7%	24.7%	19%
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Past 30 Day Inhalant Use	3.3%	4.8%	4%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Past 30 Day Use of Cocaine	2.7%	4.7%	2%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Past 30 Day Use of LSD/Psychedelics	0.9%	4.3%	1%

## Anti Social Behaviors Highlights

Overall many antisocial behaviors have decreased since the 2005 baseline data, however, there are still many indicators that are higher than national norms or have increased over time. National norms for antisocial behaviors are determined using results from approximately 300,000 youth in grades 6 through 12 from across the country that have participated in the Prevention Needs Assessment survey. Below are antisocial behaviors that either have increased since the 2005 data report and/or are higher than national norms.

\*\*Note: antisocial behavior indicators are within the past year of survey administration

Indicator	(2005) County Baseline	(2008) County	Norm
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Suspended from School	4.2%	5.5%	13%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Suspended from School	9.9%	11.7%	9%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Reporting Being Drunk or High at School	19%	21%	19%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Sold Illegal Drugs	7.9%	9%	8%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Been Arrested	4.4%	9%	7%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Attacked Someone with Intent to Harm	9.9%	10.2%	13%
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Carried a Handgun	1.8%	3.2%	5%
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Carried a Handgun	2.1%	3.8%	6%

## Risk Factor Highlights

Overall many risk factors have decreased since the 2005 baseline data, however, there are still many indicators that are higher than national norms or have increased over time. National norms for risk factors are determined using results from approximately 300,000 youth in grades 6 through 12 from across the country that have participated in the Prevention Needs Assessment survey. Below are risk factors that either have increased since the 2005 data report and/or are higher than national norms.

*\*\* Note: Perceived risk of drug use indicators are included if they have decreased or are lower than norms*

Risk Factor Indicator	Definition/Question(s) relating to risk factor	(2005) County Baseline	(2008) County	Norm
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Community Disorganization	<i>How much do each of the following statements describe your neighborhood: crime and/or drug selling, fights, lots of abandoned buildings, lots of graffiti</i>	48.8%	40%	38%
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Community Disorganization	<i>Same as above</i>	64%	55%	38%
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Community Disorganization	<i>Same as above</i>	69%	63.8%	38%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Community Disorganization	<i>Same as above</i>	73.9%	64.7%	43%
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Laws and Norms Favor Drug Use	<i>How wrong would most adults in your neighborhood think it was for kids your age: to use marijuana, smoke cigarettes, drink alcohol. If a kid smoked marijuana in your neighborhood would he or she be caught by the police?, If a kid drank some beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey, or gin) in your neighborhood, would he or she be caught by the police?, If a kid carried a handgun in your neighborhood would he or she be caught by the police?</i>	49.6%	42%	40%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Laws and Norms Favor Drug Use	<i>Same as above</i>	61.4%	54.5%	47%
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Perceived Availability of Drugs	<i>If you wanted to get some cigarettes, how easy would it be for you to get some?, If you wanted to get some beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey, or gin), how easy would it be for you to get some?, If you wanted to get a drug like cocaine, LSD, or amphetamines, how easy would it be for you to get</i>	40.7%	49.8%	43%

	<i>some?, If you wanted to get some marijuana, how easy would it be for you to get some?</i>			
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Perceived Availability of Drugs	<i>Same as above</i>	38%	39%	47%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Perceived Availability of Drugs	<i>Same as above</i>	46.3%	51.5%	50%
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Poor Family Management	<i>Parents' use of inconsistent and/or unusually harsh or severe punishment with their children. Also, parents' failure to provide clear expectations and to monitor their children's behavior makes it more likely that they will engage in drug abuse whether or not there are family drug problems</i>	45.7%	46.3%	46%
<b>Risk Factor Indicator</b>	<b>Definition/Question(s) relating to risk factor</b>	<b>(2005) County Baseline</b>	<b>(2008) County</b>	<b>Norm</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Poor Family Management	<i>Same as above</i>	42.3%	41%	40%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Poor Family Management	<i>Same as above</i>	52.9%	45.2%	42%
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Family Conflict	<i>People in my family often insult or yell at each other., We argue about the same things in my family over and over., People in my family have serious arguments.</i>	36.8%	40%	42%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Sibling Drug Use	<i>Youth who are raised in a family where their siblings use drugs are more likely to use drugs themselves</i>	53%	59%	51%
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Exposure to Adult AntiSocial Behavior	<i>When children are raised in a family or are around adults with a history of problem behaviors (e.g., violence or ATOD use), the children are more likely to engage in these behaviors.</i>	43.5%	46.2%	49%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Attitudes Favor AntiSocial Behaviors	<i>How wrong do your parents feel it would be for you to: steal anything worth more than \$5?, draw graffiti, or write things, or draw pictures on buildings or other property (without the owner's permission)?, pick a fight with someone?</i>	57%	58%	44%
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Attitudes Favor Drug Use	<i>How wrong do your parents feel it would be for <u>you</u> to: drink beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey, or gin) regularly?, smoke cigarettes?, smoke marijuana?.</i>	28.9%	27.7%	26%
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Attitudes Favor Drug Use	<i>Same as above</i>	53.1%	43.2%	41%

12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Attitudes Favor Drug Use	Same as above	52.1%	49.8%	41%
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Rebelliousness	<i>I do the opposite of what people tell me, just to get them mad., I like to see how much I can get away with., I ignore the rules that get in my way.</i>	29.3%	35.3%	40%
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Rebelliousness	Same as above	32.9%	34.8%	39%
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Rebelliousness	Same as above	42%	44%	44%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Rebelliousness	Same as above	43.1%	42.2%	40%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Attitudes Favorable Toward AntiSocial Behavior	<i>How wrong do you think it is for someone your age to: take a handgun to school?, steal anything worth more than \$5?, pick a fight with someone?, attack someone with the idea of seriously hurting them?, stay away from school all day when their parents think they are at school?</i>	46%	51%	41%
<b>Risk Factor Indicator</b>	<b>Definition/Question(s) relating to risk factor</b>	<b>(2005) County Baseline</b>	<b>(2008) County</b>	<b>Norm</b>
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Attitudes Favorable Toward Drug Use	<i>How wrong do you think it is for someone your age to: drink beer, wine or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey or gin) regularly?, smoke cigarettes?, smoke marijuana?, use LSD, cocaine, amphetamines or another illegal drug?</i>	58.7%	53.7%	43%
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Perceived Risk of Drug Use	<i>How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they: Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day?, Try marijuana once or twice?, Smoke marijuana regularly?, Take one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor) nearly every day.</i>	33.5%	41.2%	44%
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Perceived Risk of Drug Use	Same as above	35.7%	31.7%	39%
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Perceived Risk of Drug Use	Same as above	54.6%	50.5%	46%

12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Perceived Risk of Drug Use	Same as above	55.3%	50.3%	37%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Friends Use of Drugs	<i>Young people who associate with peers who engage in alcohol or substance abuse are much more likely to engage in the same behavior. Peer drug use has consistently been found to be among the strongest predictors of substance use among youth. Even when young people come from well-managed families and do not experience other risk factors, spending time with friends who use drugs greatly increases the risk of that problem developing.</i>	51%	51%	40%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Rewards for AntiSocial Behavior	<i>What are the chances you would be seen as cool if you: smoked cigarettes?, began drinking alcoholic beverages regularly, that is, at least once or twice a month?, smoked marijuana?</i>	57%	57%	49%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade High Risk Youth	<i>percentage of students who have more than a specified number of risk factors operating in their lives. For 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, it is the percentage of students who have 7 or more risk factors, for 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade it is 8 or more risk factors, and for 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, it is 9 or more risk factors</i>	52%	51%	44%

## Protective Factor Highlights

Overall many protective factors have decreased since the 2005 baseline data, however, there are still many indicators that are lower than national norms or have decreased over time. National norms for protective factors are determined using results from approximately 300,000 youth in grades 6 through 12 from across the country that have participated in the Prevention Needs Assessment survey. Below are protective factors that either have decreased since the 2005 data report and/or are lower than national norms.

Protective Factor	Definition/Question(s) relating to indicator	(2005) County Baseline	(2008) County	Norm
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Community Rewards for ProSocial Involvement	<i>My neighbors notice when I am doing a good job and let me know about it., There are people in my neighborhood who are proud of me when I do something well., There are people in my neighborhood who encourage me to do my best.</i>	58%	44.5%	53%
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Family Rewards for ProSocial Involvement	<i>Do you enjoy spending time with your mother?, Do you enjoy spending time with your father?, My parents notice when I am doing a good job, and let me know about it., How often do your parents tell you they're proud of you for something you've done?</i>	58%	54.8%	56%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Family Rewards for ProSocial Involvement	<i>Same as above</i>	57.7%	53.7%	57%
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Religiosity	<i>How often do you attend religious services or activities?</i>	26%	29%	53%
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Religiosity	<i>Same as above</i>	37.6%	42%	61%
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Religiosity	<i>Same as above</i>	35%	34%	59%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Religiosity	<i>Same as above</i>	25%	25%	55%

## Other Indicators Highlights

The indicators below are used as reporting outcomes by the Federal Drug Free Communities Support Grant Program to measure outcomes that the Healthy Communities That Care Coalition received in 2008. Below are indicators that have not improved since the baseline data was collected.

Indicator	(2005) County Baseline	(2008) County
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Perception of Risk- Alcohol: drink 1 or 2 drinks every day	75%	72%
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Perception of Risk- Alcohol: drink 1 or 2 drinks every day	73%	70%
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Perception of Parent Disapproval- Alcohol: drink beer, wine or hard liquor regularly	84%	81%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Perception of Parent Disapproval- Alcohol: drink beer, wine or hard liquor regularly	79%	71%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Perception of Parent Disapproval- smoke marijuana	92%	85%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Perception of Peer Disapproval- Drink Alcohol regularly	61%	44%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Perception of Peer Disapproval- Smoke Marijuana regularly	74%	61%

**For More Information on this Report and on Healthy Communities that Care Please Contact:**

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