



The Colorado Youth Survey and The Risk and Protective Factor Model

The Colorado Youth Survey (CYS) was developed from research conducted by the Social Development Research Group (SDRG) at the University of Washington in what has become commonly referred to as the Risk and Protective Factor Model.

The Risk and Protective Factor Model states that there is a set of factors (risk factors) that put youth at risk of substance abuse and other problem behaviors, and another set of factors (protective factors) that help reduce the likelihood of youth engaging in these same behaviors. These protective factors exert a positive influence or buffer against the negative influence of the risk, thus reducing the likelihood that youth will engage in problem behaviors. The CYC measures these risk and protective factors, and specific negative outcomes such as antisocial behavior and the use of alcohol, tobacco, or other illegal drugs.

The items and scales contained in the Colorado Youth Survey are organized into four separate **domain** areas:

- School Domain
- Community Domain
- Family Domain
- Peer/Individual Domain

Within these domains are groups of survey questions that are combined to create risk and protective factor **scales**. There are 24 risk factor scales and 10 protective factor scales. In addition to the scales, there are a number of **outcome** items related to substance use, and other negative behaviors. Finally, there are five supplementary item areas that are not part of the Risk and Protective Factor Model: intention to use, church/spirituality involvement, sports/recreation involvement, drinking and driving, and suicide concerns.

The table below lists the risk and protective factor scales by domain, and is followed by a list of the outcome measures and the supplemental items.

DOMAIN: SCHOOL	
<p style="text-align: center;">Protective Factor Scales</p> <p>Opportunities for Pro-Social Involvement Rewards for Pro-Social Involvement</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Risk Factor Scales</p> <p>Academic Failure Low Commitment to School</p>
DOMAIN: COMMUNITY	
<p style="text-align: center;">Protective Factor Scales</p> <p>Opportunities for Pro-Social Involvement Rewards for Pro-Social Involvement</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Risk Factor Scales</p> <p>Low Neighborhood Attachment Community Disorganization Transitions and Mobility Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use Perceived Availability of Drugs Perceived Availability of Handguns</p>

DOMAIN: FAMILY	
<p style="text-align: center;">Protective Factor Scales</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Family Attachment Opportunities for Pro-Social Involvement Rewards for Pro-Social Involvement</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Risk Factor Scales</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Poor Family Management Family Conflict Family History of Antisocial Behavior Parental Attitudes Favorable to Drug Use Parental Attitudes Favorable to Antisocial Behavior</p>
DOMAIN: PEER-INDIVIDUAL	
<p style="text-align: center;">Protective Factor Scales</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Religiosity Social Skills Belief in the Moral Order</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Risk Factor Scales</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rebelliousness Early Initiation of Drug Use Early Initiation of Antisocial Behavior Attitudes Favorable Toward Antisocial Behavior Attitudes Favorable Toward Drug Use Perceived Risk of Drug Use Interaction with Antisocial Peers Peer Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs Sensation Seeking Gang Involvement Rewards for Antisocial Involvement</p>

Outcome Measures:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • 30-day alcohol use | • lifetime cocaine use | • 30-day Ketamine use |
| • lifetime alcohol use | • 30-day LSD use | • lifetime Ketamine use |
| • 30-day smokeless tobacco use | • lifetime LSD use | • 30-day GHB use |
| • lifetime smokeless tobacco use | • 30-day stimulants use | • lifetime GHB use |
| • 30-day cigarette use | • lifetime stimulants use | • 30-day other illegal drug use |
| • lifetime cigarette use | • 30-day inhalants use | • lifetime other illegal drug use |
| • 30-day marijuana use | • lifetime inhalants use | • heavy drinking |
| • lifetime marijuana use | • 30-day ecstasy use | • heavy cigarette use |
| • 30-day cocaine use | • lifetime ecstasy use | • Antisocial behavior |

Other Items:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Depression | • Church/spirituality involvement |
| • Suicide | • Sports/recreation involvement |
| • Drinking and driving | |

The Colorado Youth Survey report provides helpful information about school, community, family, and youth health issues as reflected in the above scales and items. Taken together, these data provide a comprehensive snapshot of community strengths and weaknesses that can assist in needs assessment and program planning activities, and lead to improvements in the many areas affecting our youth. To view a sample of the CYS report, please access our web site at www.omni.org.

To learn more about the Colorado Youth Survey, please contact:

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