

FIVE CLASSES OF RISK FACTORS FOR ADOLESCENT USE AND ABUSE OF SUBSTANCES

1. Peer factors

- a. Peer substance use
- b. Positive peer attitudes toward substance use
- c. Greater attachment to peers (than to parents)
- d. Perception of similarity to peers who use substances

2. Parent/family factors

- a. Parental substance use
- b. Positive parental attitude about substance use and beliefs about harmlessness of substances
- c. Parental tolerance of adolescent substance use
- d. Lack of attachment between parents and child
- e. Lack of parental involvement with child's life
- f. Lack of appropriate supervision/discipline
- g. Parental antisocial behavior
- h. Family history of psychopathology
- i. Family disruption (e.g. divorce)

3. Individual Factors

- a. Early childhood characteristics such as conduct disorder and aggression
- b. Poor academic performance/school failure
- c. Early onset of substance use, especially prior to 15
- d. Positive attitudes/beliefs about substance abuse

- e. Risk-taking/sensation-seeking behavior
- f. High tolerance of deviance/nonconformity relative to traditional values
- g. Positive expectancies regarding the effects of substances
- h. External locus of control
- i. Extroversion
- j. Low self-esteem
- k. Poor impulse control
- l. Anxiety/depression
- m. Impaired coping skills
- n. Interpersonal/social difficulties
- o. Traumatic experiences (e.g. childhood physical or sexual abuse)

4. Biologic Factors

- a. Genetically controlled physiological processes and characteristics (e.g., altered sensitivity to alcohol or inherited temperament)

5. Community/social/cultural factors

- a. Low socioeconomic status
- b. High population density
- c. Low population mobility
- d. Physical deterioration
- e. High Crime
- f. Increased unemployment
- g. Deviant norms, which condone the use of substances
- h. High alienation of the citizens
- i. Availability of substances