Positive Parenting for Healthy Youth

PAYS 2025 Risk and Protective Factors

CTC of Greater Downingtown is funded in part by the Chester County Department of Drug & Alcohol Services.

What is PAYS?

The Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) is a student survey administered in odd-numbered years (e.g. 2021, 2023, 2025) to youth in 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades in participating schools throughout the state. The questions asked in the survey cover many types of attitudes, knowledge, behaviors, and experiences.

2025 DASD PAYS Participation

6th	924
8th	842
10th	798
12th	544

Total student participation:

3,108

DASD Top Protective Factors

Assets that decrease risk taking behaviors among youth.

Here is where we are doing well:

Family Attachment:

Young people that feel they are a valued part of their family.

83%

Family Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement:

Youth that are exposed to more opportunities to participate meaningfully in the responsibilities and activities of the family.

80%

Family Rewards for Prosocial Involvement:

When parents, siblings, and other family members praise, encourage, and attend to things done well by their child.

69%

Ways to Strengthen Our Protective Factors

Take an interest in what your child is interested in and make time to do that activity with them - be present and limit distractions.

Eat meals as a family.
It can be any meal of the day, and even if schedules allow it only a few times a week, it matters. Eating together sets the stage for conversation and sharing.

School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement:

When youth are recognized and rewarded for their contribution at school.

69%

DASD Top Risk Factors

Characteristics in the community that are likely to increase risk taking behaviors among youth.
Here is where we need support:

Low Commitment Towards School:

Students that report **not** liking school, spending time on homework, and perceiving coursework as irrelevant.

41%

Parental Attitudes Favorable Towards Drugs & Antisocial Behavior:

In families where parents use illegal drugs, are heavy users of alcohol, are tolerant of children's use, and/or use drugs or alcohol with their kids, children are more likely to become drugs users in adolescence.

40%

Sensation Seeking:

Youth are participating in dangerous, risky behaviors.

40%

Ways to Strengthen Our Protective Factors

Talk early and often with your kids about drugs and alcohol, starting around ages 8-11 years old. Early conversations can prevent early use.

Be available. Make space for daily play or interaction with your kids, even if it is only for 10 minutes. This connects you to your child and feeling connected leads to more positive choices.

Role model healthy behaviors. Most youth report their **parents are the biggest influence** on their decision of whether or not to drink or use drugs. Show your kids how to cope with stress in healthy ways, without using substances.

Seek out help from trusted sources. Visit CTC's resource pages for useful links and resources. See link below!

Learn more about the 2025 PAYS data on our website (www.dtownctc.org - scan QR) & follow us on social media:

SCAN ME

CTC is funded in part by the Chester County Department of Drug & Alcohol Services.

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