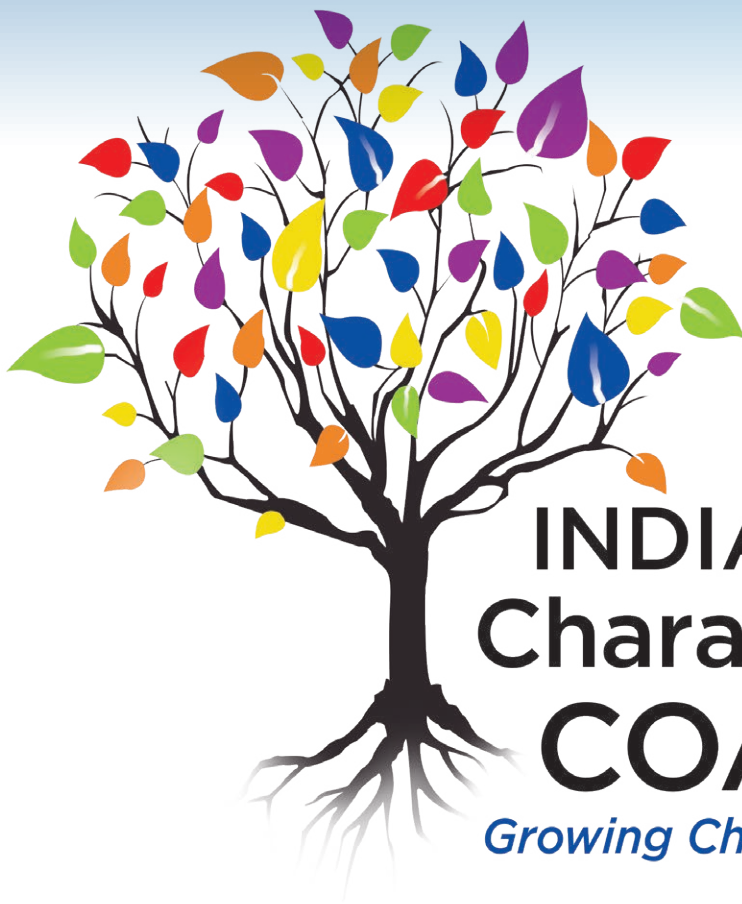


2024 STUDENT SUPPORT CARD

A survey of 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grade secondary students from the Indian Valley community in Montgomery County



INDIAN VALLEY Character Counts! COALITION

Growing Character in the Community

IVCCC Mission Statement

To promote positive youth development by providing information, supporting programs and strengthening community relationships that promote the principle of Character Counts! and that build assets to help youth stay healthy, safe, and drug-free.

Executive Board members

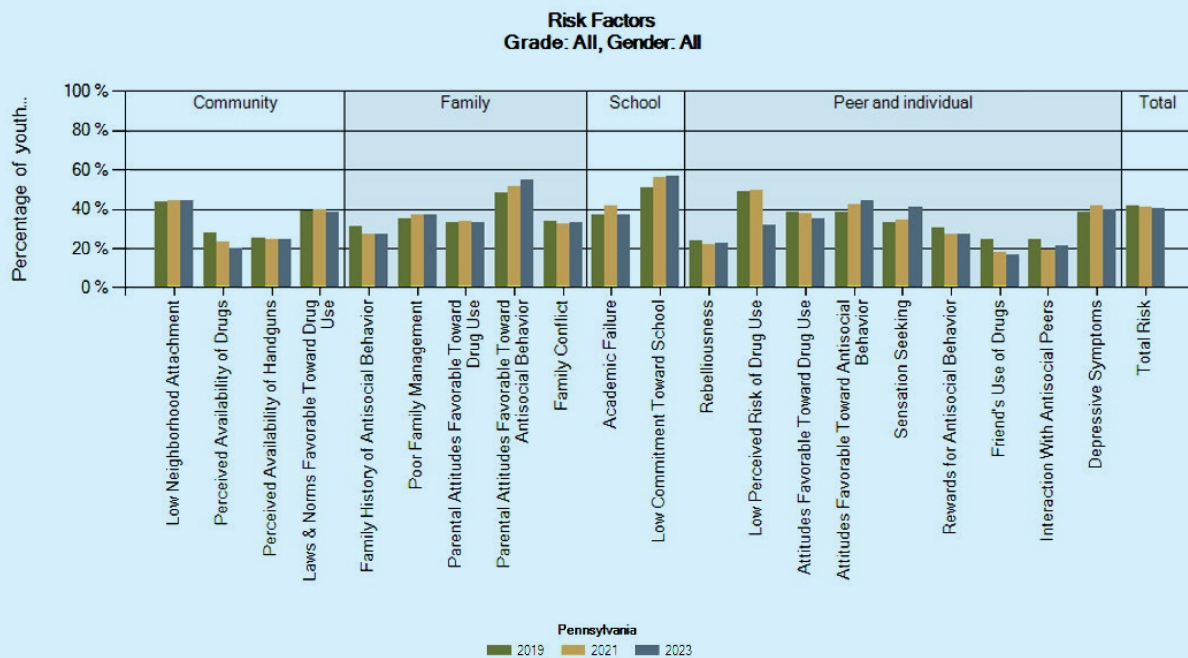
Jeremy Miller, Chelse Burton, Laura Heineck, Suzanne MacCarty, Andrew Wilkinson, and Danielle Ingalls

PREVENTION IS A SCIENCE. The Risk and Protective Factor Model of Prevention is a proven way of reducing substance abuse and its related consequence.

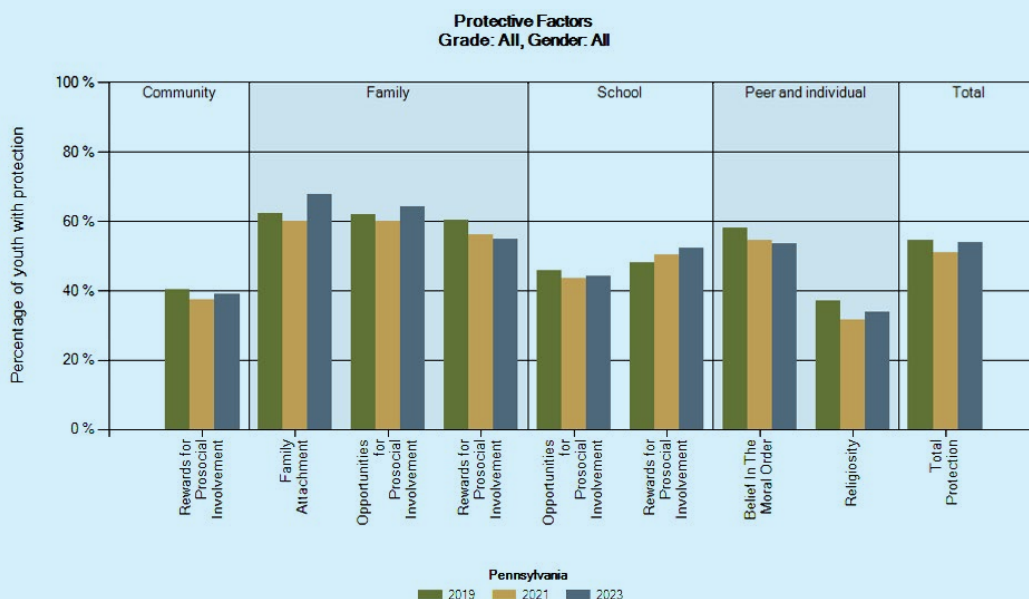
This model is based on the simple premise that to prevent a problem from happening, we need to identify the factors that increase the risk of that problem developing and then find ways to reduce the risks. Just as medical researchers have found risk factors for heart disease such as diets high in fat, lack of exercise, and smoking, researchers have defined a set of risk factors for youth problem behaviors.

The charts below illustrate the risk and protective factors possessed by adolescents in the Indian Valley as compared to other across the state.

RISK FACTORS are characteristics of community, family, and school environments which are known to predict increased likelihood of drug use, delinquency, school dropout, and violent behaviors among youth.



PROTECTIVE FACTORS exert a positive influence and buffer against the negative influence of risk, thus reducing the likelihood that adolescents will engage in problem behaviors.

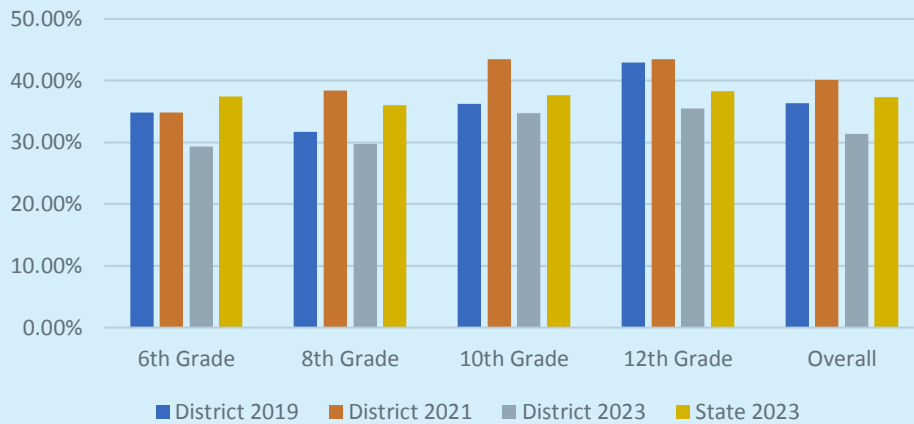


MENTAL HEALTH

Important mental health habits including coping, resilience, and good judgement help adolescents to achieve overall well-being and set the stage for positive mental health in adulthood.

COALITION GOAL: To decrease the number of students reporting feeling sad or depressed most days over the past 12 months, as measured by the PAYS, from 31.4% in 2023 to 25% by the fall of 2025.

Reporting Feeling Sad Most Days over the Past 12 Months



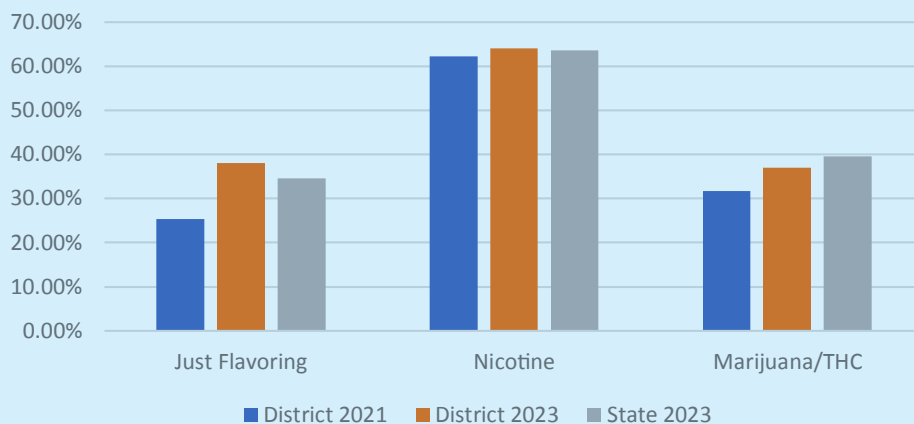
SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Young people who do not feel part of society, are not bound by rules, don't believe in trying to be successful or responsible, or who take an active rebellious stance toward society, are at a higher risk of abusing drugs. Young people who do not perceive drug use to be risky are far more likely to engage in drug use.

COALITION GOAL: To decrease vaping substances used by students in the past year, as measured by the PAYS, from:

- 38% in 2023 to less than 30% by the fall of 2025 (just flavoring).
- 64.1% in 2023 to less than 50% by the fall of 2025 (nicotine).
- 37% in 2023 to less than 30% by the fall of 2025 (marijuana/TLC).

Vaping Substances Used by Students in the Past Year



2023 SURVEYS – REASONS TO CELEBRATE AND REASONS TO STAY CONNECTED

**Based on the 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey with Souderton SD students (PAYS)
completed by students of SASD (6th, 8th, 10th and 12th grade)**

REASONS TO CELEBRATE

- Decrease in the amount of 8th grade students reporting use of vaping in the last 30 days from 6.8% in 2021 to 1.7% in 2023
- Decrease in the amount of 10th grade (48% to 32.9%) and 12th grade (63.4% to 47.7%) students reporting lifetime use of alcohol from 2021 to 2023
- Significant decrease across all grade levels in lifetime use of alcohol from 2021 to 2023
- Decrease in the amount of 12th graders reporting binge drinking within the past two weeks from 2021 to 2023.
- An average of 90% of our students across grade levels reported feeling safe in schools.
- Over 80% of 6th graders report that adults at the school stop bullying when they see it/hear/student tells them about it.
- Over 80% of 10th and 12th graders report not being bullied in the past 12 months.
- Less than 30% of students across all grade levels report being bullied on school property.
- 94.6% of students across all grade levels, state that their parents know where they are and who they are with
- 90.4% of students across all grade levels, state that their family has clear rules about alcohol and drug use.

REASONS TO STAY CONNECTED

- Goal Not Met – Students reporting feeling sad or depressed most days over the past 12 months, as measured by PAYS increased from 32.2% in 2017 to 37.03% in 2023 (our goal was to be at 25% by spring 2025)
- Goal Not Met – Students reporting inflicting self-harm (cutting, scraping, burning) 1 or more times over the past 12 months, as measured by PAYS increased from 11% in 2017 to 14.07% in 2023 (our goal was to be at 8% by spring 2025)
- Goal Not Met – 8th grade students reporting using alcohol over the past 30-days, as measured by PAYS decreased from 8.1% in 2017 to 6.04% in 2023 (our goal was to be at 5% by spring 2025)
- 9.9% of our 8th grade students have reported being bullied several times per week, almost daily, an increase from 5.9% in 2021
- From 2021 to 2023, 8th graders reporting using ‘flavoring’ vapes, increased from 42% to 87%, which is above the state average.
- Increase in 6th graders reporting needing medical treatment for suicide attempt. All other graders were a decrease from 2021 to 2023
- There is a decrease in all grade levels from 2021 to 2023 reporting enjoying being in school during the last year
- There is an increase across all grade levels stating that the reason they were bullied was based upon how they look (clothing, hairstyle, etc.)
- 49% of students surveyed report parental attitudes that are favorable to anti-social behavior (a 6% increase since 2015).

*Although taking drugs at any age can lead to addiction, research shows that the earlier a person begins to use drugs the more likely they are to progress to more serious abuse. This may reflect the harmful effects that drugs can have on the developing brain. Additionally, teens who drink before age 15 are five times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who began drinking at age 21.