

Individual Risk Factors

Source: Adapted from OSAP Prevention Monograph-5, *Communicating About Alcohol and Other Drugs* (Washington, D. C. OSAP, 1990).

Area	Risk Factors
Ecological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> φPoverty/lack of resources—living in an economically depressed area with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --High unemployment --Inadequate housing --Poor schools --Lack of prenatal care (prenatal, neonatal, and postnatal) --Inadequate health care and social services --Lack of opportunity/alternatives for meaningful tasks --High prevalence of crime --High prevalence of illegal drug use, drug dealing, and liquor stores in the neighborhood --Social support for drug dealing as a legitimate source of income φMinority status involving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Racial discrimination --Culture devaluation in American society --Differing generational levels of assimilation --Culture and language barriers to getting adequate health care and other social services --Low education levels --Low achievement expectations from society
Family Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> φAlcohol or other drug involvement of parent(s) φParental abuse and neglect of children φParental or sibling history of mental illness or criminal court involvement φHigh levels of family stress, including financial strain φUnemployed or underemployed parents φSocially isolated parents φFamily instability φHigh level of marital and family conflict and/or family violence φParental absenteeism due to separation, divorce, or death φLack of family rituals φInadequate parenting and low parent/child contact φFrequent family moves φIncarceration of parents or siblings

Individual Risk Factors (continued)

Constitutional Vulnerability Of the Child

- φParents are AOD dependent
- φBirth defects, including possible neurological and neuro-chemical dysfunctions
- φNeuropsychological vulnerabilities
- φPhysically challenged
- φLearning disabled

Early Behavioral Problems

- φAggressiveness
- φEmotional Problems
- φInability to express feelings appropriately
- φHypersensitivity
- φInability to cope with stress
- φProblems with relationships
- φCognitive problems

Problems in Adolescence

- φSchool failure and/or school dropout
- φDelinquency
- φViolent Acts
- φGateway drug use (cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana)
- φEarly drug use
- φEarly unprotected sexual activity
- φTeenage pregnancy/teen parenthood
- φUnemployment or underemployment

Behavior

- φLack of bonding to society (family, school, and community)
- φRebelliousness and nonconformity
- φCultural alienation
- φFeelings of failure
- φPresent versus future orientation
- φHopelessness
- φLack of self-sufficiency
- φLow self-esteem
- φInability to form positive close relationships
- φVulnerability to negative peer or family pressure