

PAYS Trend Analysis

Punxsutawney Area School District

An analysis of the trends over time in risk factors as assessed by the biennial administration of the Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) in Jefferson County school districts.



Introduction

Purpose

In a recent national survey, 33.2% of 12th graders in the U.S. reported drinking alcohol in the past 30 days while 12.5% reported using e-vaporizers and 22.5% reported using marijuana. Research has shown that adolescents who abuse alcohol, tobacco and other drugs (ATOD) are at greater risk for injuries, unwanted sexual activity, academic problems, and delinquency.

The goal of the Clearfield-Jefferson Drug Free Communities Coalition is to prevent the use and abuse of ATOD among youth in Clearfield and Jefferson Counties. The coalition is committed to promoting collaboration among multiple sectors in each community, supporting them with technical assistance and training in the Communities That Care (CTC) model, and the development of prevention strategies that target both risk and protective factors.

The purpose of this report is to summarize the trends over time in risk factors assessed by the PAYS. Data will be presented for 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015, if available. The percent of change over time from 2009 to 2015 will also be calculated. In this document, percent change is calculated as:

$$((2015 \text{ score} - 2009 \text{ score}) / 2009 \text{ score}) \times 100$$

An increase in the risk factor score is represented with a “+” and a decrease is represented by a “-”

Note that the percent change is only calculated for the difference between 2009 and 2015. Risk factor scores are included for 2011 and 2013 to demonstrate the actual “trend.” Scores that show a step-wise increase or decrease from year to year represent a linear trend over time. Scores that fluctuate would represent a curvilinear trend. Linear trends suggest that the change over time may be due to a persistent external factor (e.g., a change in the environment).

Cut Points



The cut-points were determined based on responses to questions on national surveys of youth from across the U.S. For example, responses to questions about “Family History of Problem Behavior” (a risk factor) were evaluated to determine at which point scores would divide youth into more at-risk and less at-risk categories. The criteria for risk included poor grades, ATOD use, and antisocial behavior. Once a cut-point for each risk and protective factor was determined, the same cut-point was used to divide youth in the school district into more risk and less risk categories. The risk factor score represents the percentage of youth you were above the cut-point and considered higher risk.

PAYS Trend Analysis



Trends in Punxsutawney Area School District Risk Factors 2009 – 2015

	2009	2011	2013	2015	%Change 2009-2015
Community					
<i>Low Neighborhood Attachment</i>	44	40	33	39	-11.4%
<i>Perceived Availability of Drugs</i>	52	37	25	24	-53.8%
<i>Perceived Availability of Handguns</i>	58	55	37	35	-39.7%
<i>Laws & Norms Favorable Toward Drug Use</i>	47	41	29	34	-27.7%
Family					
<i>Family History of Antisocial Behavior</i>	38	--	29	33	-13.2%
<i>Poor Family Management</i>	49	--	32	31	-36.7%
<i>Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Drug Use</i>	24	21	28	26	+8.3%
<i>Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Antisocial Behavior</i>	34	34	33	40	+17.6%
<i>Family Conflict</i>	29	--	23	29	0.0%
School					
<i>Academic Failure</i>	39	33	32	36	-7.7%
<i>Low Commitment Toward School</i>	44	39	41	40	-9.1%
Peer and Individual					
<i>Rebelliousness</i>	30	22	19	24	-20.0%
<i>Gang Involvement</i>	--	--	--	9	--
<i>Perceived Risk of Drug Use</i>	42	38	30	42	0.0%
<i>Attitudes Favorable Toward Drug Use</i>	41	31	32	33	-19.5%
<i>Attitudes Favorable Toward Antisocial Behavior</i>	36	30	28	30	-16.7%
<i>Sensation Seeking</i>	39	39	28	30	-23.1%
<i>Rewards for Antisocial Behavior</i>	32	24	27	28	-12.5%
<i>Friend's Use of Drugs</i>	36	30	20	24	-33.3%
<i>Interaction with Antisocial Peers</i>	32	30	20	24	-25.0%
<i>Depressive Symptoms</i>	31	33	31	37	+19.4%
Total					
<i>Total Risk</i>	48	29	33	40	-16.7%

Summary

Significant Declining Trends in Risk Factor Scores

- Perceived Availability of Drugs
- Laws and Norms Favorable toward Drug Use
- Poor Family Management
- Friend's Use of Drugs

Significant Escalating Trends in Risk Factor Scores

- Parental Attitudes Favorable to Antisocial Behavior
- Depressive Symptoms

PAYS Trend Analysis



Trends in Jefferson County Risk Factors 2009 – 2015

	2009	2011	2013	2015	%Change 2009-2015
Community					
<i>Low Neighborhood Attachment</i>	42	40	37	41	-2.4%
<i>Perceived Availability of Drugs</i>	56	49	33	28	-50.0%
<i>Perceived Availability of Handguns</i>	61	60	45	40	-34.4%
<i>Laws & Norms Favorable Toward Drug Use</i>	52	50	41	39	-25.0%
Family					
<i>Family History of Antisocial Behavior</i>	43	43	36	34	-20.9%
<i>Poor Family Management</i>	52	52	38	35	-32.7%
<i>Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Drug Use</i>	34	31	38	33	-2.9%
<i>Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Antisocial Behavior</i>	39	38	43	48	+23.1%
<i>Family Conflict</i>	34	36	30	33	-2.9%
School					
<i>Academic Failure</i>	44	38	37	38	-13.6%
<i>Low Commitment Toward School</i>	49	45	47	46	-6.1%
Peer and Individual					
<i>Rebelliousness</i>	33	29	25	26	-21.2%
<i>Gang Involvement</i>	--	--	--	11	--
<i>Perceived Risk of Drug Use</i>	47	43	41	46	-2.1%
<i>Attitudes Favorable Toward Drug Use</i>	50	43	43	37	-26.0%
<i>Attitudes Favorable Toward Antisocial Behavior</i>	40	37	35	34	-15.0%
<i>Sensation Seeking</i>	45	46	33	36	-20.0%
<i>Rewards for Antisocial Behavior</i>	39	32	35	30	-23.1%
<i>Friend's Use of Drugs</i>	46	44	29	29	-37.0%
<i>Interaction with Antisocial Peers</i>	41	32	24	24	-41.5%
<i>Depressive Symptoms</i>	37	40	38	41	+10.8%
Total					
<i>Total Risk</i>	56	45	42	42	-25.0%

Summary

Significant Declining Trends in Risk Factor Scores

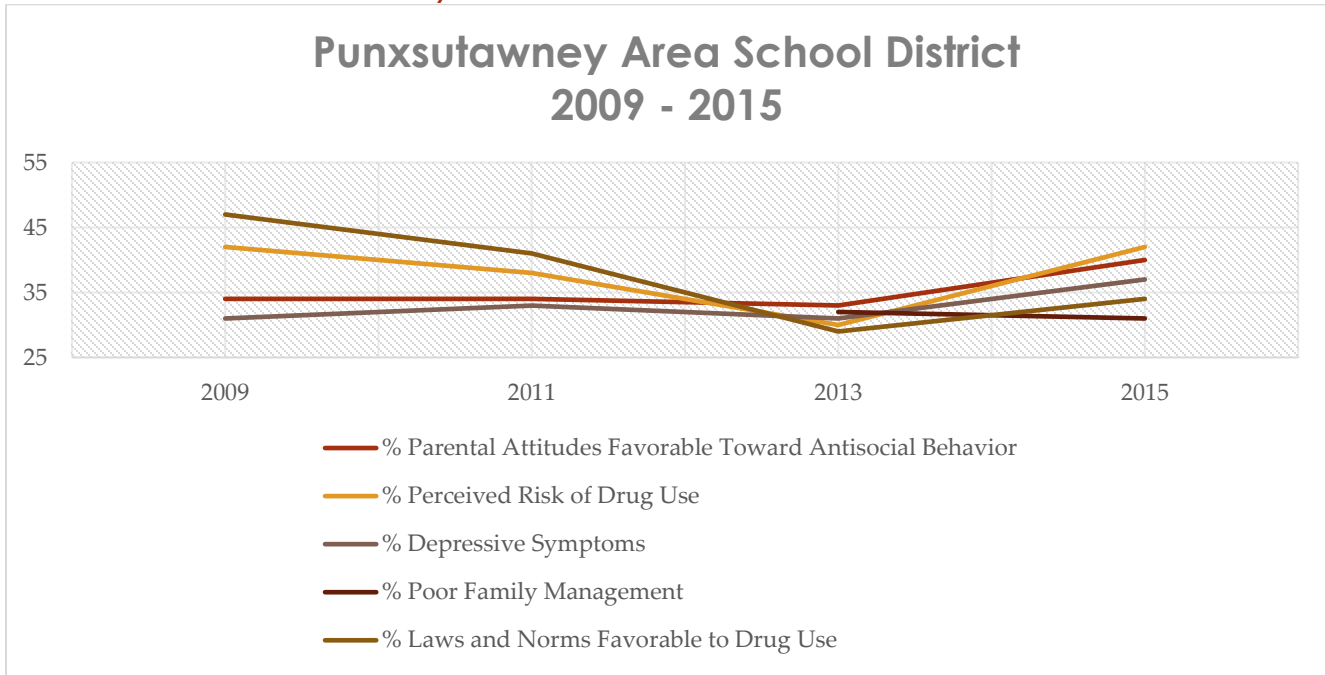
- Perceived Availability of Drugs
- Poor Family Management
- Rebelliousness
- Friend's Use of Drugs
- Interactions with Antisocial Peers

Significant Escalating Trends in Risk Factor Scores

- Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Antisocial Behavior
- Depressive Symptoms



Visual Trends in Priority Risk Factors 2009 – 2015

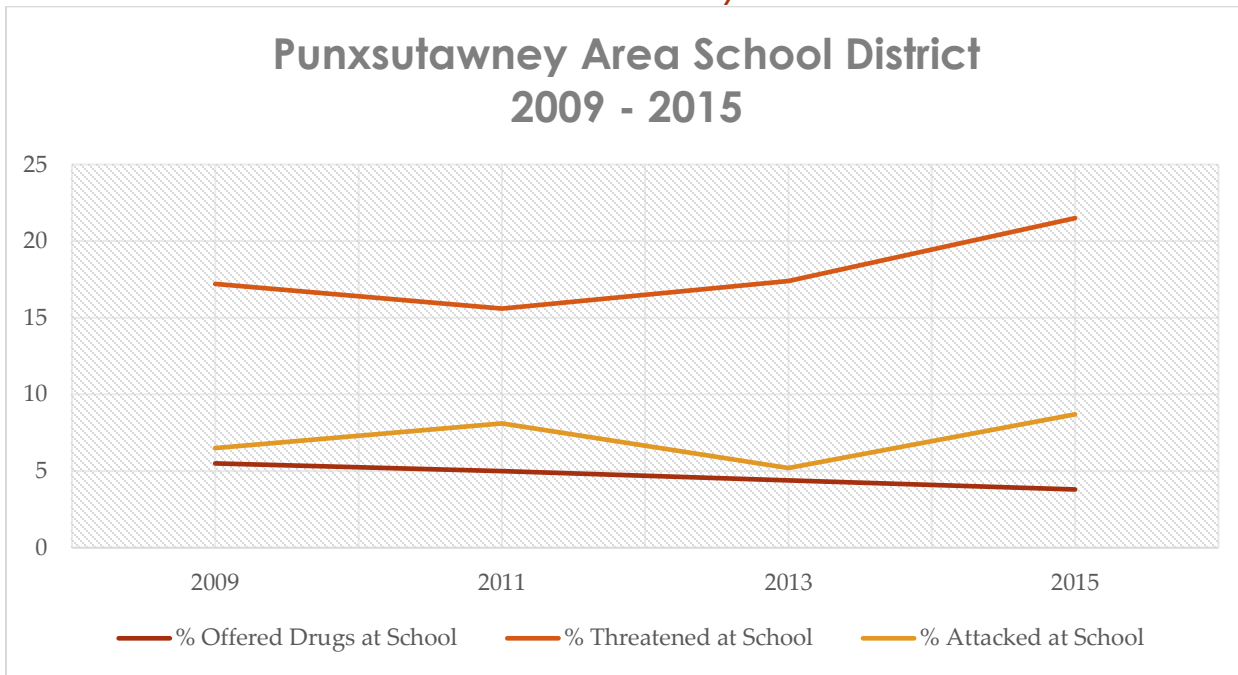


Comparisons of District and County on % Change in Priority Risk Factors

Priority Risk Factors	Punxsutawney SD Current Risk Score	Jefferson Co Current Risk Score	% Change Punxsutawney SD since 2009	% Change Jefferson Co since 2009
Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Antisocial Behavior	40	48	+17.6%	+23.1%
Perceived Risk of Drug Use	42	46	0.0%	-2.1%
Depressive Symptoms	37	41	+19.4%	+10.8%
Poor Family Management	31	35	-36.7%	-32.7%
Laws & Norms Favorable Toward Drug Use	34	39	-27.7%	-25.0%



Trends in School Climate and Safety 2009 – 2015



Comparisons of District and County on School Climate & Safety

Indicators	Punxsutawney SD Current Risk Score	Jefferson Co Current Risk Score	% Change Punxsutawney SD since 2009	% Change Jefferson Co since 2009
<i>Offered Drugs a School</i>	3.8%	5.3%	-30.9%	-45.9%
<i>Attacked at School</i>	8.7%	11.6%	+33.8%	+18.4%
<i>Threatened at School</i>	21.5%	25.6%	+25.0%	+9.4%

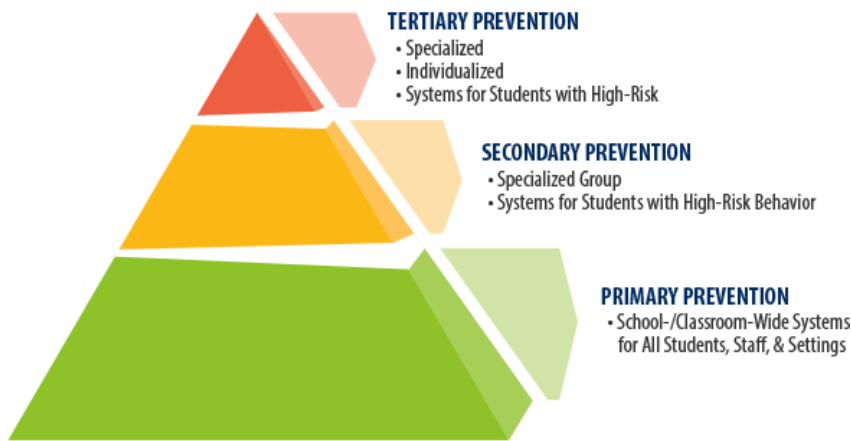


Summary

Trends

Most significant trends, both decreasing and escalating, appear to be linear. This suggests that there is a consistent external factor or factors that are influencing the trend. Most concerning are the escalating trends in parental attitudes favorable to antisocial behavior and depressive symptoms. When parent(s) are perceived as having more favorable attitudes toward antisocial behavior, children are more likely to engage in substance use, delinquency, truancy, and other conduct problems. In addition, the escalation of depressive symptoms has impacts on a number of problematic behaviors including academic performance, school attendance, substance use, violence, sexual activity, and mental health.

Prevention Paradigm



The prevention paradigm suggests that while primary prevention is best, schools can still play a role in improving outcomes for students by implementing secondary and tertiary preventive interventions. While it is true that schools cannot assume full responsibility for students when they are off school campus, schools (including teachers, staff and administrators) can create a culture that promotes positive youth development, which can potentially change a child’s negative developmental trajectory.

Prevention Programs Offered by the Clearfield-Jefferson Drug and Alcohol Commission



- Strengthening Families (10-14)
- Too Good for Drugs
- Project Toward No Drug Abuse
- Current Drug Trends
- Gambling Prevention
- Life Skills
- Relapse Prevention
- Alternative Activities
- Educational Presentations on Substance Abuse Topics
- Student Assistance Program
- Early Intervention