



Using PAYS Data to Advance Public Health

Public Hearing: The Heroin Crisis in Pennsylvania
St. Francis University
Loretto, PA
August 5, 2014

The Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS)

- A voluntary survey conducted in schools every other year since 1989 for youth in 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades.
- Assesses youth behaviors, attitudes, and knowledge.
 - Primary source of information about what our youth know, think and believe about anti-social behaviors.
- Collects data across multiple domains that impact students
Community – School – Family – Peer/Individual
- Survey is anonymous and confidential. No individual student information can be obtained from the data set.
- Summary Reports prepared at the District, County, and State levels.
 - In 2013, 342 Districts, 81 “Other” schools, and 54 County reports were prepared.

PAYS, continued

- Assesses Risk Factors that are related to problem behaviors and the Protective Factors that guard against them.
 - Risk Factors – Those conditions that increase the likelihood that a child will develop problem behaviors later in life.
 - Protective Factors – Those people or conditions in a community that buffer youth from risk or assist in determining how they respond to risk.
- Identifies the underlying reasons that lead youth to engage in problem behaviors.
 - Allows prevention efforts to target the underlying causes for the behaviors, rather than trying to address the behavior after youth have already engaged in it.
- PAYS allows community leaders and school administrators to direct scarce prevention resources towards areas where they are likely to have the greatest impact.

Risk Factors for Adolescent Problem Behavior

Risk Factors	SUBSTANCE ABUSE	DELINQUENCY	TEEN PREGNANCY	SCHOOL DROPOUT	VIOLENCE	DEPRESSION & ANXIETY
COMMUNITY						
Availability of drugs	✓				✓	
Availability of firearms		✓			✓	
Community laws and norms favorable toward drug use, firearms, and crime	✓	✓			✓	
Media portrayals of violence					✓	
Transitions and mobility	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Low neighborhood attachment and community disorganization	✓	✓			✓	
Extreme economic deprivation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
FAMILY						
Family history of the problem behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Family management problems	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Family conflict	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Favorable parental attitudes and involvement in the problem behavior	✓	✓			✓	
SCHOOL						
Academic failure beginning in late elementary school	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lack of commitment to school	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
INDIVIDUAL/PEER						
Early and persistent antisocial behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rebelliousness	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Friends who engage in the problem behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Favorable attitudes toward the problem behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Early initiation of the problem behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Constitutional factors	✓	✓			✓	✓

PAYS Local/County Report Sections

1. Demographics

2. ATOD Use and Access

- Gateway, Prescription, Other Drugs
- Risky Substance Use Behaviors
- Access & Willingness to use

3. Antisocial Behavior

- Gambling
- Youth Gang Involvement
- Texting & Driving
- Other antisocial Behaviors

4. School Climate & Safety

- Violence/Drugs on School Property
- Bullying & Internet Safety

5. Social & Emotional Health

- Depression & Suicide Risk
- Family Separation
- Trauma & Grief, Transitions, Other Stressful Events

6. Systemic Factors

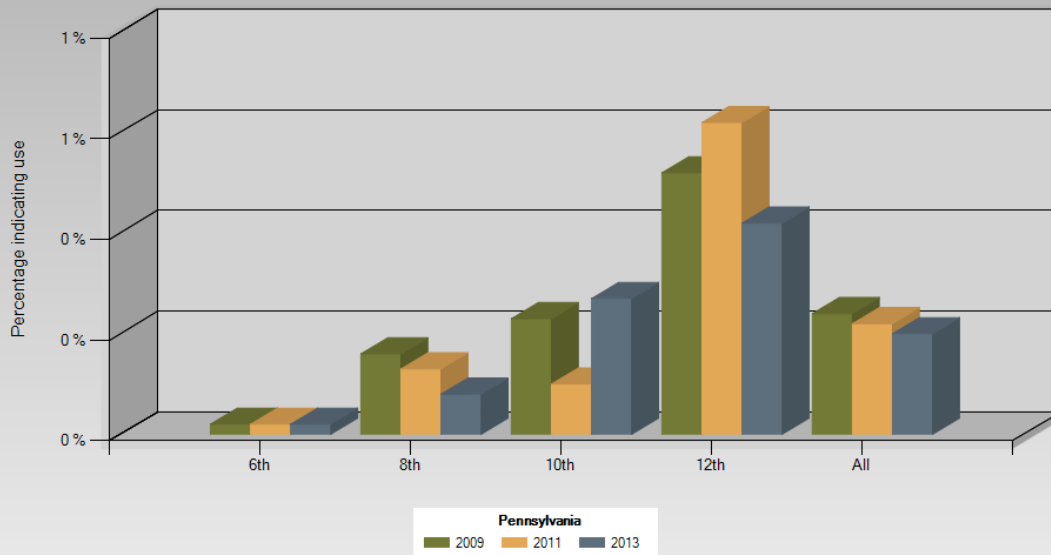
- Perception of Risk
- Perception of Parental Disapproval
- Perception of Peer Disapproval
- Attitudes Toward Peer Use

7. Risk & Protective Factors

- Understanding Cut-Points
- Risk & Protective Scales Defined
- Overall Risk & Protective Scores
- Risk & Protective Factors by Grade

State and County Reports are available at www.PAYS.state.pa.us, then “2013”

Heroin Past 30 Days By Grade



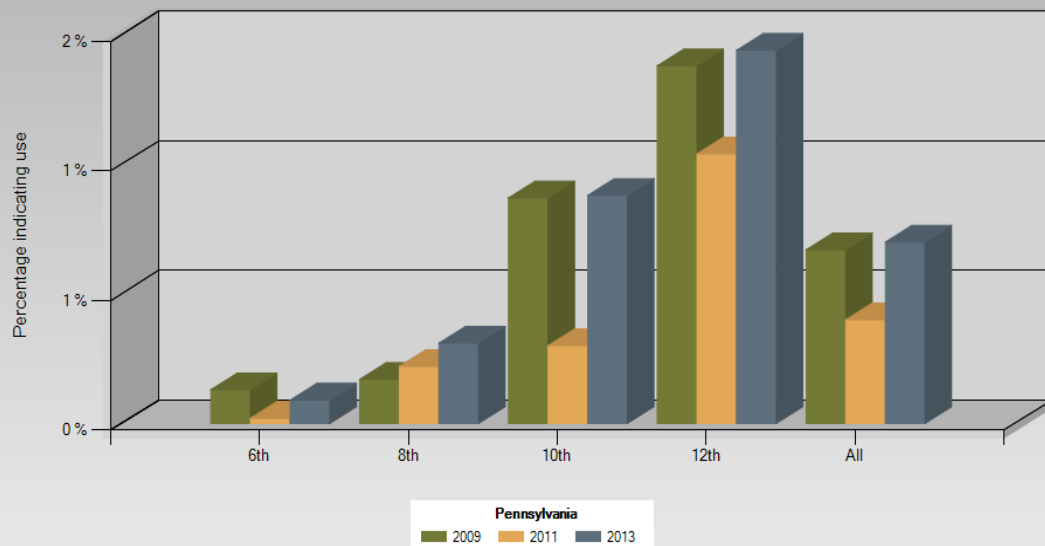
www.bach-harrison.com/payswebtool

Data Source: Pennsylvania Youth Survey

Heroin Past 30 Days By Grade

Grade	State 2009	State 2011	State 2013
6th	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%
8th	0.16%	0.13%	0.08%
10th	0.23%	0.10%	0.27%
12th	0.52%	0.62%	0.42%
All	0.24%	0.22%	0.20%

Heroin Lifetime By Grade



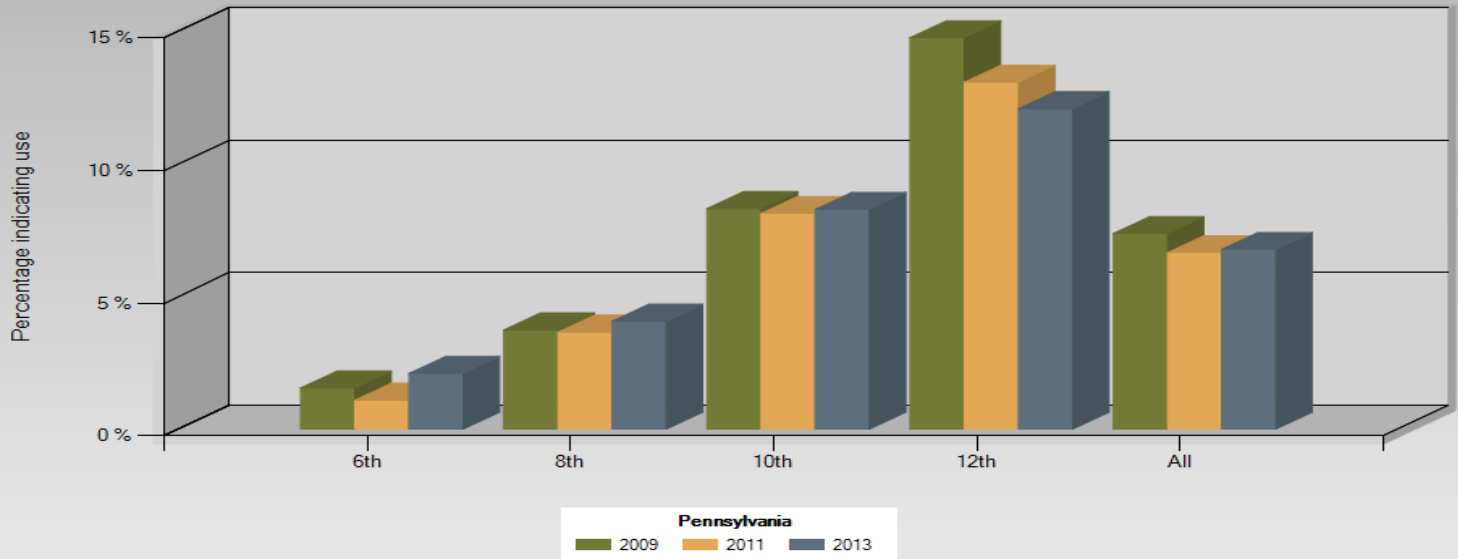
www.bach-harrison.com/payswebtool

Data Source: Pennsylvania Youth Survey

Heroin Lifetime By Grade

Grade	State 2009	State 2011	State 2013
6th	0.13%	0.02%	0.09%
8th	0.17%	0.22%	0.31%
10th	0.87%	0.30%	0.88%
12th	1.38%	1.04%	1.44%
All	0.67%	0.40%	0.70%

Prescription Narcotic Drugs Lifetime By Grade



www.bach-harrison.com/payswebtool

Data Source: Pennsylvania Youth Survey

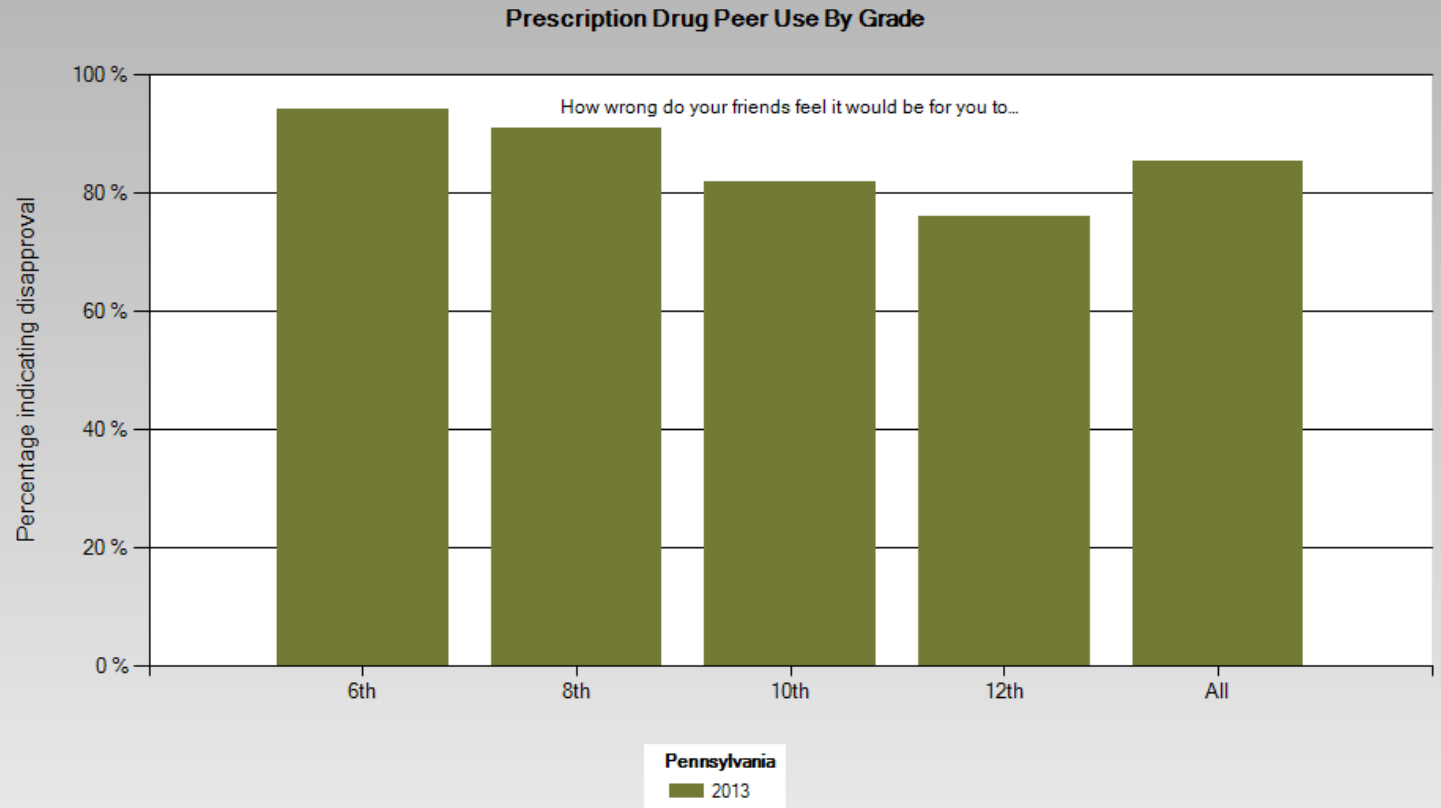
Prescription Narcotic Drugs Lifetime By Grade			
Grade	State 2009	State 2011	State 2013
6th	1.55%	1.09%	2.10%
8th	3.74%	3.66%	4.07%
10th	8.32%	8.14%	8.29%
12th	14.77%	13.09%	12.09%
All	7.38%	6.66%	6.78%

Cigarettes and Heroin

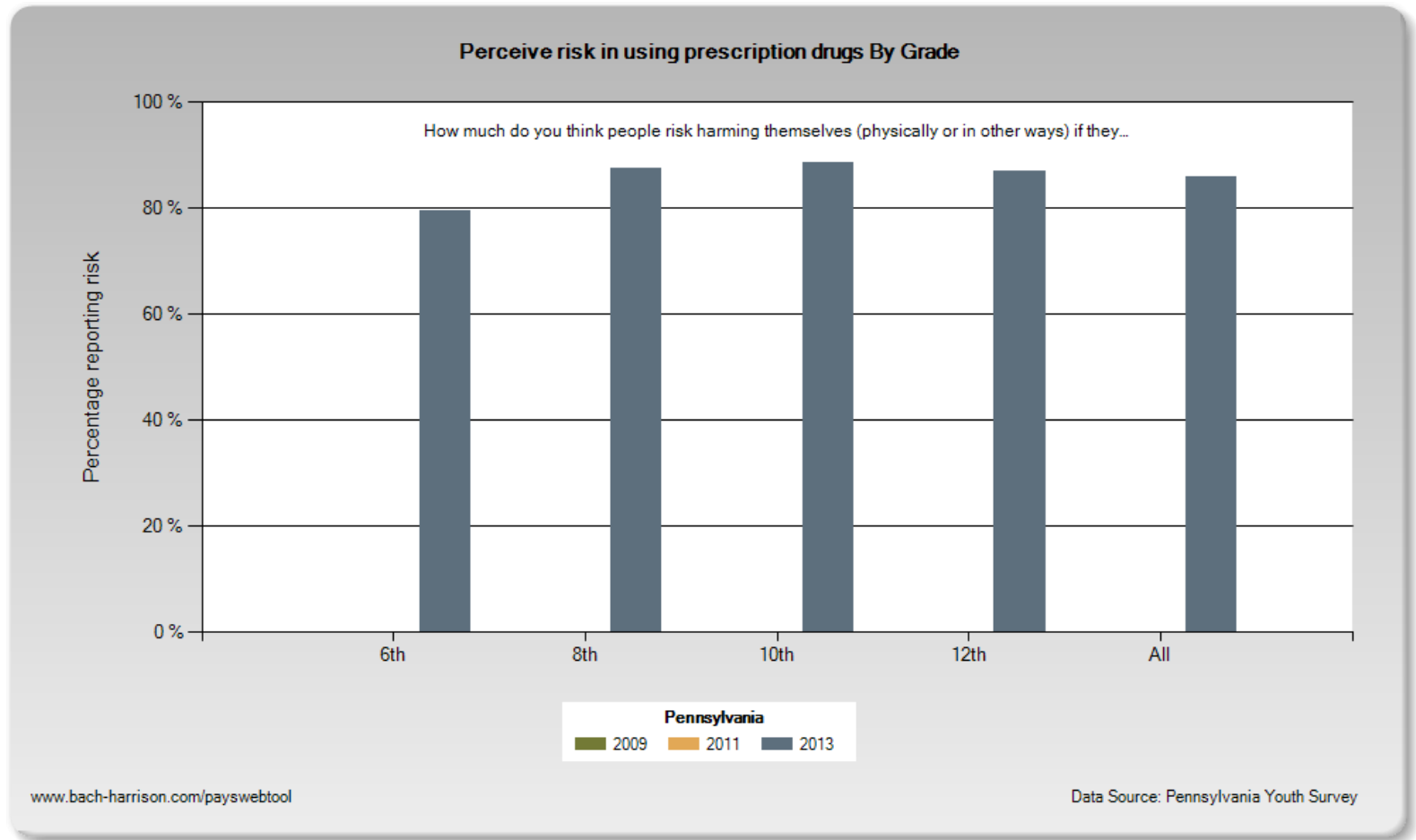
- Lifetime cigarette use associated with more approval of heroin use.
- Nicotine has been shown to increase physical and neurological susceptibility to addiction to both heroin and opioids.
 - True gateway relationship not present with other drugs.
 - Especially an issue for rural communities who have higher levels of tobacco use.

Grade	Cigarettes					Smokeless tobacco				
	County 2009	County 2011	County 2013	State 2013	MTF 2013	County 2009	County 2011	County 2013	State 2013	MTF 2013
6	5.4	6.2	3.7	2.4	n/a	3.9	2.5	2.2	1.0	n/a
8	21.7	17.4	12.5	10.2	14.8	16.2	11.6	7.1	4.6	7.9
10	37.6	36.9	31.6	21.2	25.7	25.7	25.0	22.5	10.9	14.0
12	44.6	43.3	44.6	35.2	38.1	30.5	27.9	28.0	18.9	17.2
All	27.2	26.7	22.2	17.6	n/a	19.0	17.3	14.4	9.0	n/a

Peer Disapproval of Rx Use

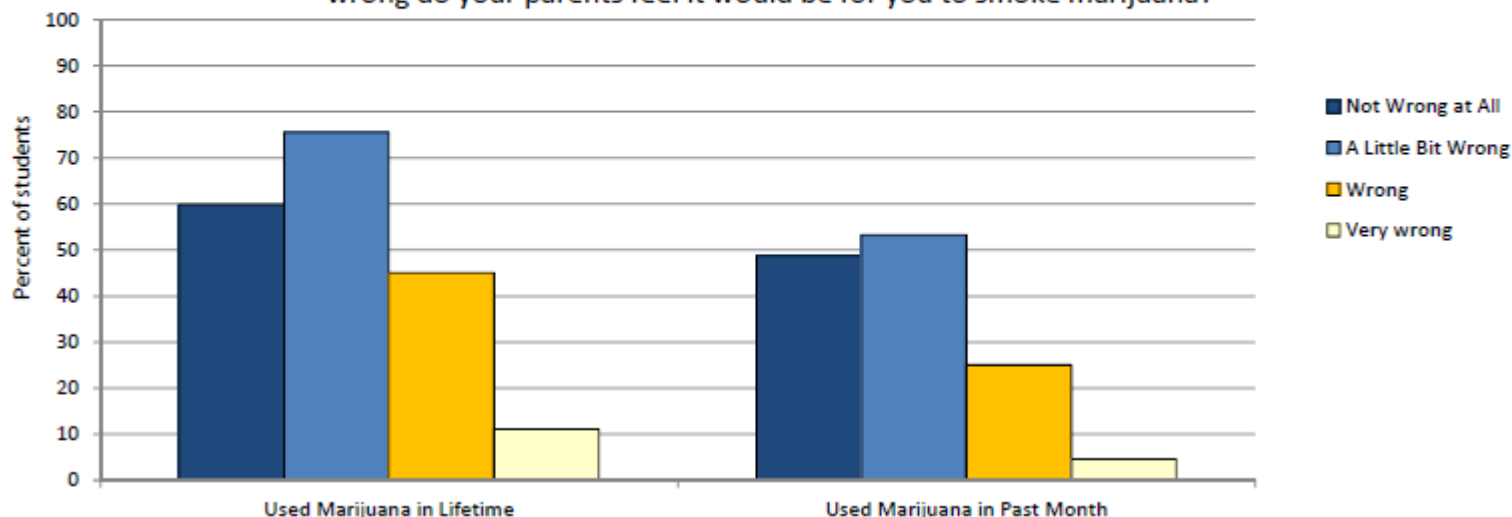


Perceived Harm Risk of Rx Drug Use



Youth Marijuana Use by Perceived Parental Disapproval of Marijuana Use: (PAYS 2013)

Students who reported use within the substance category in relation to marking the question "How wrong do your parents feel it would be for you to smoke marijuana?"



Parental Acceptability and Youth Substance Use:

Use in relation to students responding to the question "How wrong do your parents feel it would be for you to smoke marijuana?"

Response	Marijuana Lifetime Use		Marijuana Past 30-Day Use	
	Did not use in lifetime	Has used in lifetime	Did not use in lifetime	Has used in lifetime
Not Wrong at All	40.1	59.9	51.3	48.7
A Little Bit Wrong	24.5	75.5	46.7	53.3
Wrong	54.9	45.1	74.9	25.1
Very wrong	88.9	11.1	95.3	4.7

Moving Forward...

- Prevention of Heroin use and Rx misuse needs to begin EARLY - Prevent the greatest number of youth as possible from beginning to use ANY drugs.
 - Give kids the skills and ability to refuse to use.
- Address the underlying factors that lead youth to engage in problem behaviors.
 - Rural Risk Factors include:
 - Community Laws and Norms Favorable towards Drug Use,
 - Youth Perceived Risk of Drug Use, and
 - Parental Attitudes towards ATOD Use.
- Educate youth and families on appropriate use of prescription medications, the dangers of sharing prescriptions, and the dangers of mixing medications.

Moving Forward, Continued

- Establish clear standards and beliefs in the community about avoiding drug use and Rx misuse. Youth model what they see.
 - Increase Protective Factors to buffer youth from risk including:
 - Opportunities and Rewards for Pro-Social Involvement
 - Family Attachment
 - Reduce Media Messages that can present a “how to” guide or glamorize drug use.
- Involve the Community in prevention efforts.
 - Utilize a data-driven public health approach such as the “Communities That Care” model.
- Address the Access Points both Physical and Social to reduce youth exposure to drugs.
 - Drug Trafficking Routes (I-99 Corridor)
 - “Pharm” Parties/Parties in the Woods

For More Information

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Direct Link to PAYS Website:

www.pays.state.pa.us