

Issues Facing Today's Youth: What Parents Should Know

Vandenberg AFB

INSERT
INSTALLATION
LOGO





Relocation and Youth

- Relocation is hard for Youth/Teens
 - Changes in peer groups
 - Loss of relationships with caring/supportive adults from outside family unit
 - Changes in schools and available activities for youth
 - Difficulty fitting into a new place



Prevention and Promotion

- There are many negative influences that youth may be susceptible to:
 - Substance abuse
 - School drop out
 - Teen pregnancy
 - Depression
 - Delinquency
 - Violence
 - Gang Involvement

Key Term: Problem Behaviors



Prevention and Promotion

- With support from parents, peers, and the community, relocation can have a positive influence on youth:
 - Promoting youth awareness and involvement in the community
 - Having new experiences by being in a new location or country
 - Making new friends and going to new schools
 - Promoting youth independence



Factors that Can Put Our Youth At Risk

- There are several factors that research has shown to be influential in putting youth at risk. These are divided by the setting in which the factors generally exist:
 - **In the Community**
 - Availability of drugs/guns/weapons
 - Low attachment/commitment to neighborhood and community
 - **In the Family**
 - Conflict/Management problems
 - Modeling of negative behaviors (e.g., substance abuse)

Key Term: Risk Factors



Factors that Can Put Our Youth At Risk

- **In the Schools**
 - Lack of commitment
 - Poor academic performance

- **In the Peer Groups**
 - Alienation/isolation
 - Friends who engage in problem behaviors
 - Favorable attitudes toward problem behaviors (e.g., attitudes accepting of alcohol use)

Key Term: Risk Factors



What Can We Do?

- Provide a caring and supportive environment (e.g., parent involvement)
- Provide opportunities for bonding with pro-social peers and adults (e.g., mentors)
- Set high expectations for youth behavior and achievement

Key Term: Protective Factors/Assets



What Can We Do?

- Provide clear guidance about what constitutes right and wrong behavior
- Provide opportunities to learn important life/social skills
- Ensure opportunities for meaningful involvement
- Recognize youth for their accomplishments

Key Term: Protective Factors/Assets



How can the Youth Sponsorship Program Help?

- Helps youth get involved with positive youth from their new community
- Helps youth make friends and have opportunities for positive social activity
- Informs youth about rules, regulations, and available resources
- Allows youth to volunteer and get involved with the community in meaningful ways



Words of Wisdom

- Get your teen(s) involved with the Youth Sponsorship Program
- Get involved with your teen(s)
- Know your teen(s)
- Listen to your teen(s)
- Look beneath the surface
- Be their eyes, ears and conscience
- Be a positive role model
- Admit when you are wrong
- Tell them you love them (without embarrassing them)

For more information on the
Youth Sponsorship Program
contact:

Contact Youth Programs
805-606-2152