

# Communities That Care® Risk Factor Matrix

## Risk Factors for Adolescent Problem Behaviors

| Risk Factors  | Substance Abuse | Delinquency | Teen Pregnancy | School Drop-Out | Violence |
|---|-----------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|----------|
| <b>Community</b>  |                 |             |                |                 |          |
| 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  | ✓               | ✓           | ✓              | ✓               | ✓        |
| <b>Family</b>   |                 |             |                |                 |          |
| Family History of the Problem Behavior                                  | ✓               | ✓           | ✓              | ✓               | ✓        |
| Family Management Problems  | ✓               | ✓           | ✓              | ✓               | ✓        |
| Family Conflict   | ✓               | ✓           | ✓              | ✓               | ✓        |
| Favorable Parental Attitudes and Involvement in the Problem Behavior    | ✓               | ✓           |                |                 | ✓        |
| <b>School</b>   |                 |             |                |                 |          |
| Early and Persistent Antisocial Behavior                                | ✓               | ✓           | ✓              | ✓               | ✓        |
| Academic Failure Beginning in Late Elementary School                    | ✓               | ✓           | ✓              | ✓               | ✓        |
| Lack of Commitment to School  | ✓               | ✓           | ✓              | ✓               | ✓        |
| <b>Individual/Peer</b>  |                 |             |                |                 |          |
| Alienation and Rebelliousness   | ✓               | ✓           |                | ✓               |          |
| Friends Who Engage in the Problem Behavior                              | ✓               | ✓           | ✓              | ✓               | ✓        |
| Favorable Attitudes Toward the Problem Behavior                         | ✓               | ✓           | ✓              | ✓               |          |
| Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior                                | ✓               | ✓           | ✓              | ✓               | ✓        |
| Constitutional Factors  | ✓               | ✓           |                |                 | ✓        |

## Risk Factors for Juvenile Delinquency by Age

North Carolina JCPC County Assessment and Planning

|   | Onset of Risk |         |          |
|---|---------------|---------|----------|
|   | Birth to 6    | 7 to 11 | 12 to 16 |
| <b>Individual Risk Factors</b>                                |               |         |          |
| Constitutional factors: mental health & biological conditions | ■             | ■       | ■        |
| Early and persistent behavior problems in school              | ■             | ■       | ■        |
| Academic failure  |               | ■       | ■        |
| Early initiation of conduct problems                          | ■             | ■       |          |
| Gang membership   |               |         |          |
| <b>Family Risk Factors</b>                                    |               |         |          |
| Prenatal factors  | ■             |         |          |
| Family management problems                                    | ■             | ■       | ■        |
| Parent problems   | ■             | ■       | ■        |
| Family conflict and disruption                                |               | ■       | ■        |
| <b>Peer Group Risk Factors</b>                                |               |         |          |
| Peer rejection  | ■             | ■       | ■        |
| Peer who engage in delinquent behavior                        |               | ■       | ■        |
| <b>School-level Risk Factors</b>                              |               |         |          |
| School and classroom size                                     | ■             | ■       | ■        |
| Disruptive school environment                                 |               | ■       |          |
| <b>Community Risk Factors</b>                                 |               |         |          |
| Impoverished neighborhood                                     | ■             | ■       | ■        |
| Community drug and alcohol use                                |               | ■       |          |
| Community crime and violence                                  |               | ■       | ■        |
| Presence of gangs   |               | ■       | ■        |
| Availability of guns  |               |         | ■        |

Risk factors are correlated with high county rates of juvenile delinquency. Not all of these factors correlate with delinquency for individuals.

Prepared by the Jordan Institute for Families, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.