

Getting Started:

What is the Pennsylvania Youth Survey?

The Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) is a student survey administered in odd-numbered years (e.g., 2015, 2017, 2019) to youth in 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades in participating schools throughout the Commonwealth.

The PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) has sponsored the administration of the PAYS since 1989. In 2013, the PA Dept. of Education (PDE) and PA Dept. of Drug and Alcohol Prevention (DDAP) joined PCCD in sponsoring school-district participation in the survey.

The survey is **anonymous, voluntary and confidential**. Youth are never required to complete the survey and their identity is not connected to their answers.

The questions asked in the survey cover many types of **attitudes, knowledge, behaviors, and experiences**. Youth respond to questions on topics such as:

- ATOD Use and Access
- Perceptions and Attitudes
- Social and Emotional Health
- Antisocial Behaviors
- Community and School Climate and Safety

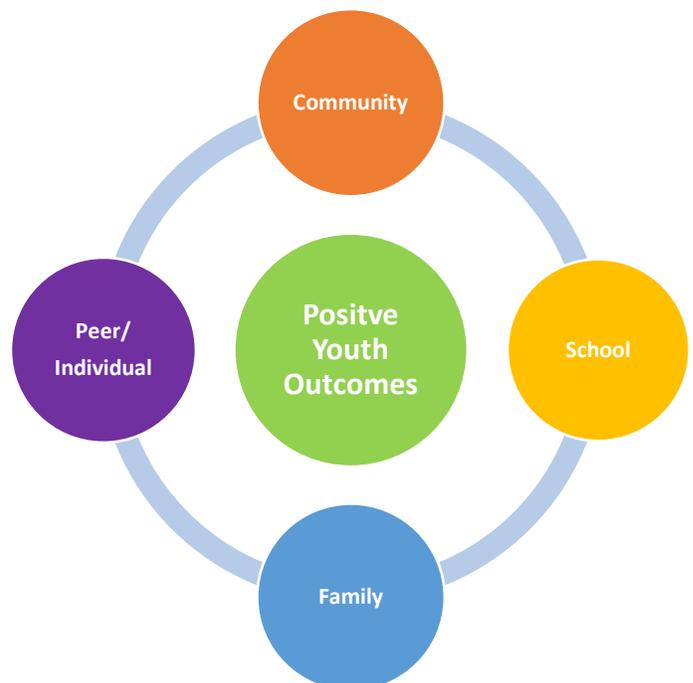


PAYS also includes questions related to **Risk and Protective Factors (RPFs)**.

Risk Factors increase the chances of a youth having problems and are predictors of problem behaviors.

Protective Factors are conditions that buffer against risk factors and decrease the chances for problem behaviors.

RPF questions in the PAYS cover many areas of a youth's life including their experiences in the following domains:



"IT PAYS TO ASK...IT PAYS TO KNOW"