

ABBYPD PATHWAYS

Creating positive
pathways for **at-risk
youth** in collaboration
with families,
communities, and
stakeholders.



ABBYPD
STRENGTH IN COMMUNITY

A photograph of a dirt path in a forest. The path is made of brown earth and leads into the distance, flanked by tall trees with green foliage. The lighting is soft, suggesting a misty or overcast day.

PATHWAYS is **evidence-informed**.

It aims to create a **long-term, integrated** response (rather than a “single solution” approach).

PATHWAYS takes a **balanced**, 3-pronged approach.

1

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Listen, Identify, understand and address the factors that have an impact on community due to gang participation.
- Build trust and mutual understanding with diverse and emerging communities.



2

PREVENTION

- Identify and address risk factors and strengthen protective factors to deter gang participation.
- Take preventative approaches through engagement, education and empowerment.



3

INTERVENTION

Provide intervention opportunities for at-risk youth and young adults to prevent them from gang participation.



Youth Gang Risk Factors – Individual

- Low self-esteem
- Behavioural/discipline problems
- Alcohol or drug use
- Poor peer relations
- Victim of violence or bullying
- Low motivation
- Low educational and occupational aspirations





Youth Gang Risk Factors – Family

- Family violence, abuse/neglect
- Family drug or alcohol abuse
- Parental non-involvement or ineffective parenting
- Low parental expectations
- Lack of adult and parental role models and supervision
- Extreme economic deprivation
- Gang or criminal behaviour by other family members
- Negative sibling or parental influences

Youth Gang Risk Factors – School

- Low educational aspirations
- Lack of educational options
- Negative school environment
- Lack of student responsibility
- Lack of effective discipline system
- Low attachment to school community
- Conflict between home/school cultures





Youth Gang Risk Factors – Peer & Social

- Friends who use drugs or who are gang members
- High commitment to delinquent peers
- Street socialization
- Gang members in class
- Interaction with delinquent peers
- Pre-teen exposure to stress
- Cultural norms supporting gang behaviour
- Lack of connection to, or removal from, cultural identity



An iceberg floating in the ocean. The tip of the iceberg is above the water, and the much larger base is submerged. The background shows a blue sky with white clouds.

Youth Gang Risk Factors – Community

- Perceived “unsafe” communities
- Negative community influences
- Lack of community support services
- Lack of school/community linkages
- Youth are not seen as assets to the community
- Presence of gangs in the neighbourhood
- Availability of drugs and firearms in the neighbourhood
- Community norms are inattentive to alcohol/drug abuse





“...the **effects of risk factors vary with age**. For example, in childhood the risk factors that have more of an impact are those that exist within the family; as children grow and become more integrated into their environment, risk factors related to peers, school, neighbourhood and community play a more important part.”

Source: Savignac, J. (2009). Families, Youth and Delinquency: The State of Knowledge and Family Based Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Programs.

The interaction and accumulation of risk factors increase the likelihood of acting out, not only because the effect of risk factors is **cumulative**, but also because they **interact**: the effects of one multiply the effects of another, and so on.

For example, parental alcohol abuse may generate family conflict, which in turn may increase the risk of problems related to substance abuse.

Source: Savignac, J. (2009). Families, Youth and Delinquency: The State of Knowledge and Family Based Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Programs.





The answer to prevent youth from joining gangs is both simple and complex.

The simple answer is: Start early and prevent risk. The complex part is determining how best to do this across different ages and the various contexts of community, family, school and peers.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice & U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2013). Changing course: Preventing gang membership.

Enhancing Protective Factors

Improving the lives of children and youth, especially those at risk, begins with limiting the impact of "risk factors" (conditions which endanger youth and lead them off track) and increasing exposure to "protective factors" (conditions that promote healthy behaviors and sound decision making).

Like risk factors, protective factors can exist in - and be addressed by - individuals, families, communities, and institutions.

Source: The Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs (IWGYP)



To make a referral to
AbbyPD's PATHWAYS Program:



abbypd.ca



(604) 864-4898
PATHWAYS referral line



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