



PAYS = Pennsylvania Youth Survey

National survey in grades 6, 8, 10 & 12
Conducted every two years

Addresses Risks & Assets in home, family & peer group life

Compare your school results at various levels – Erie County, North West PA Region, full State & National (detail confidential below the Erie County aggregated level)

Communities can focus efforts on key identified areas – reduce risks & enhance assets

2007 Survey Objective

Increase Erie County school participation & get a more complete view of our youth at ALL levels



Why Participate?

Survey is research based and statistically sound – this type data is now required when applying for state and federal grant funds

Survey provides a mechanism to assess the risk, protection & outcomes in the community & school districts

Identifies areas exposed to the highest overall levels of protection

Helps to prioritize risk and protective factors for prevention planning
Direct resources to areas of greatest impact

Monitor changes in target areas both positive & negative

NEED trend data to help follow the students through the grade levels.

History in Erie County

First conducted in Erie County Schools in 2005 by Erie County Health Dept.
(for full survey: www.ecdh.org)

2,465 students surveyed in Erie County schools / 14,926 in state

Highest RISK factors:

- Poor Family Discipline (-)
- Transitions & Mobility (-)
- Family History of Anti-Social Behavior (-)
- Favorable Parental Attitudes & Involvement in the Problem Behavior (+)

Greatest ASSETS:

- Belief in the Moral Order (right & wrong) (+)
- School Opportunities for Pro-social Involvement (+)

Other Findings:

- Student depression (34%)
- Substance abuse
 - High in Erie County & State
 - Some downward indicators

What Else!!!

It is FREE to your school district!!
(Survey costs beyond the initial state school selection list)

The survey has been endorsed by:

- Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency
- Department of Health
- Department of Public Welfare
- Department of Education
- PA Liquor Control Board
- Erie County Policy & Planning Council for Children & Families
- Mercyhurst Civic Institute

It is IMPORTANT!!

It is easy – online or paper & pencil

It is anonymous & confidential

Full process facilitated at local level by Mercyhurst Civic Institute

