



Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support



EDNA BENNETT PIERCE
PREVENTION RESEARCH CENTER

How Can Communities Play a Role in Advancing Effective Youth Crime Prevention in Pennsylvania?

- Focus resources on prevention rather than more expensive and punitive approaches that deal with crime after it has occurred.
- Organize a broad coalition of stakeholders to create synergy and a collective community vision to improve outcomes for children and families.
- Encourage the adoption of prevention and intervention programs which have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness. These programs are cost effective, provide a significant return on investment, and are proven to reduce delinquency, substance use, and youth problem behaviors.
- Be cognizant of the fact that strategies that have not demonstrated effectiveness through rigorous evaluation may be ineffective and a poor use of scarce resources, and may even produce unintended harmful effects.
- Support the administration of the Pennsylvania Youth Survey in your local communities. The data collected from the survey identifies local risk and protective factors and shows trends in youth problem behaviors.
- Proactively use Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) data in community planning and policy decisions. Using the survey results ensures that your community is effectively addressing local influences upon delinquency and is promoting healthy youth development.
- Support community prevention coalitions that are using local data to make strategic decisions about program selection and resource allocation. Community coalitions play an integral role by mobilizing all of a community's resources, which improves efficiency and reduces duplication of efforts.
- Educate community leaders and policy makers about the success and cost-effectiveness of evidence-based prevention, and advocate for increased resources for prevention at both the state and local levels.

For more information on the Communities That Care Initiative in Pennsylvania, please visit the PCCD website at <https://www.pccd.pa.gov/>, or contact Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support epis.psu.edu.

EPIS is a project of the Prevention Research Center, College of Health and Human Development, Penn State University, and is supported through funding from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs.