



RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS for Youth and Family Behavioral Health

Society	Social and economic supports – economic opportunity, education, healthcare, housing, transportation (+) Intergenerational and structural oppression, discrimination, and racism (-) Government and private disinvestment in historically marginalized communities (-) Social and economic inequities (-) Fragmented care delivery (-)	
Environment	Access to green spaces (+) Availability of unhealthy products – drugs, alcohol, food (-) Access to healthy food (+) Crumbling transportation infrastructure (-) Housing quality (+) Neighborhood blight (-) Safe, accessible public spaces, reflective of community culture (+) Household crowding (-) Businesses offering living wage jobs (+) Lack of affordable housing (-)	
Community	Culturally responsive, gender-affirming, physical and mental health services and supports (+) Structural barriers to physical and mental health services and supports (-)	
	Quality childhood care (+) Unmet childcare needs (-)	Quality education (+) Positive school climate (+) Child/teacher/caregiver collaboration (+) After-school activities and affinity groups (+) Bullying (-) Exclusionary discipline (-)
	Social connection and support (+) Culturally affirming community (+) Neighborhood-level social cohesion (+) Faith-based supports (+)	
	Positive adult role models for youth (+)	
	Healthy romantic relationships (+) Participation in community service (+) Prosocial peers (+) Risky peer behavior/affiliations (-)	
Family	Caregiver educational attainment (+) Caregiver stress – financial, burnout, safety, loneliness, acculturative (-)	
	Caregiver ACEs (-) Prenatal health (+ or -)	Parenting knowledge and skills (+) Parent-child relationship – safe, supportive, attuned, secure attachment (+) Parental monitoring, appropriate discipline and routines (+) Excessive parental pressure (-) Family discord (-) Family structure – single or adolescent caregiver, large family size (-) ACEs, financial, food, or housing insecurity (-)
Youth	Genetic factors, temperament/personality traits (+ or -) Cognitive abilities and development (+ or -) Social-emotional skills (+) School connectedness (+) Physical health conditions/disabilities (-) Interpersonal challenges, e.g., loneliness (-) Stressors, e.g., ACEs, discrimination, academic, climate (-) Health behaviors, e.g., sleep, nutrition (+ or -)	
DRAFT - For Discussion Purposes		Self-concept, identity, future orientation (+ or -) Sense of meaning/purpose (+) Substance use (-) Social media use (+ or -)

PRIMARY PREVENTION STRATEGIES to Support Youth and Family Behavioral Health



Society	Strengthen social and economic supports - affordable healthcare, housing, childcare, living wage, food security • Support family friendly workforce policies for working caregivers • Invest in interventions addressing structural racism & systemic community underinvestment • Ensure access to high quality childcare and education • Restrict marketing of harmful products to youth • Strengthen social media protections – safety standards, data sharing • Support the development of pro-connection technology • Fund and advance research to deepen knowledge on addressing social connection, social media, caregiver stress	
	Reimagine public spaces to promote social connections • Ensure safe outdoor spaces – parks, playgrounds, green space, walking/biking trails • Ensure safe housing conditions • Support access to healthy food • Reduce access to lethal means of suicide • Reduce availability and accessibility of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs	
	Work	Support family-friendly policies - family and sick leave, flexible work schedules • Support living wages, mental health care, workforce wellbeing interventions • Support unemployment benefits and job skills trainings
		Healthcare
	Education	Collect and disseminate data on student & staff well-being • Expand & support early childhood, education & school-based mental health workforce • Provide training/consultation on trauma-informed & racially just systems and practices • Support safe, affirming school environments – address bullying & exclusion • Improve physical school environments • Strengthen culture of connection among students, staff, and families • Expand school-based mental health services (including Wellness Centers) & their integration into school systems • Support well-being & resilience of school-based personnel • Support universal health wellness programs – SEL, digital literacy, mental health literacy, substance use prevention and harm reduction, suicide prevention, mental health first aid, and violence prevention • Expand school-based leadership, mentorship & social advocacy opportunities • Support peer to peer programs
General		Build social Infrastructure & culture of connection in key institutions • Support conditions to build safe supportive relationships with youth and adults – mentorship, arts, events • Promote positive messages about mental health, and reduce negative stereotypes, bias, and stigma • Increase public awareness and education on loneliness and strategies for creating connection • Increase public awareness and education about the benefits and harms of digital technology • Support culturally-based healing practices, affinity spaces, and collective well-being activities • Train gatekeepers – peers, teachers, coaches, clergy, health navigators – in mental health first aid • Expand opportunities for volunteerism, civic engagement, youth leadership
Family	Family planning	Expand home visiting • Expand breast feeding support
	Prenatal care	Support caregivers to strengthen well-being & resilience – e.g., parenting programs • Support families to manage the challenges of social media and technology
Youth	Develop social-emotional, well-being & resiliency skills • Develop healthy relationships with technology & social media • Support civic engagement, volunteerism, development of purpose & meaning	