



## What we looked at

The Survey of Risk and Protective Factors looked at what Victoria's young people are doing and how this is influenced by risk and protective factors in young people's lives. These are listed in the following charts:

### Victoria's young people and their behaviour

Problem behaviours	Substance use	Anti-Social behaviour	Mental health	Social factors
	consumption of: alcohol cigarettes marijuana solvents illicit drugs painkillers (for non-medical use)	violent behaviour theft problems with school (ie. truancy)	depressive symptoms or anxiety deliberate self-harm	risk of homelessness sexual activity having unprotected sex being bullied

### Risk and Protective factors in young people's communities, schools, families and peer/individual groups

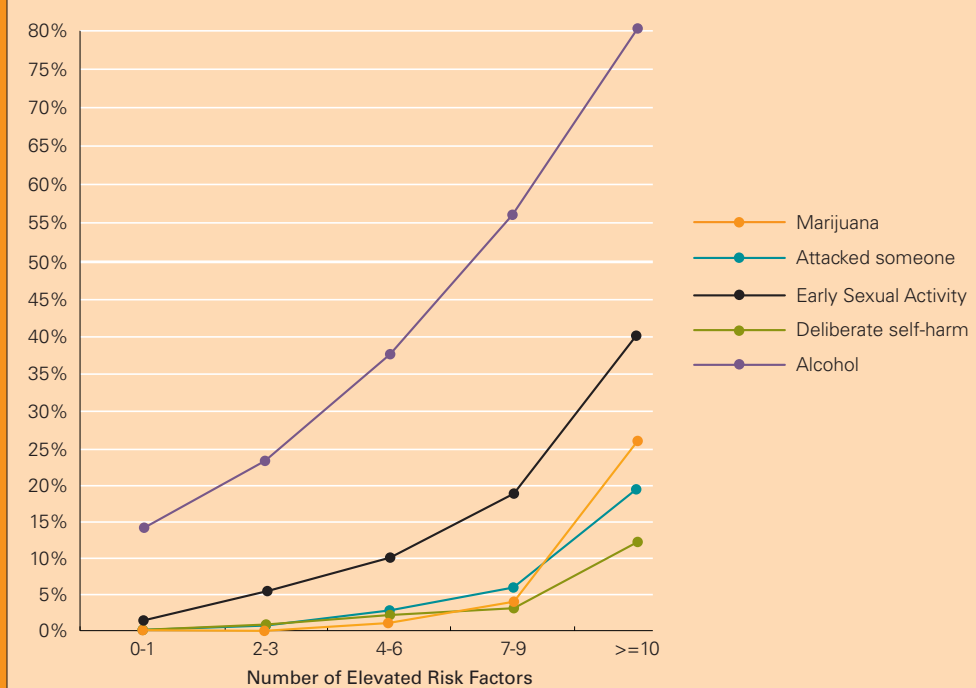
Risk factors	Community	School	Family	Peer – Individual
	Low neighbourhood attachment Community disorganisation Personal transitions & mobility Laws & norms favourable to drug use Perceived availability of drugs	Academic failure Low commitment to school	Poor family management Poor discipline Family conflict Family history of anti-social behaviour Parental attitudes favourable toward drug use Parental attitudes favourable to anti-social behaviour	Rebelliousness Early initiation of problem behaviour Impulsiveness Anti-social behaviour Favourable attitudes toward anti-social behaviour Favourable attitudes toward drug use Interaction with anti-social peers Friends use of drugs Sensation seeking Rewards for anti-social involvement
Protective factors	Community	School	Family	Peer – Individual
	Opportunities for pro-social involvement Rewards for pro-social involvement	Opportunities for pro-social involvement Rewards for pro-social involvement	Attachment Opportunities for pro-social involvement Rewards for pro-social involvement	Religiosity Social skills Belief in moral order

## What we Found

The most important finding to come out of the Survey of Risk and Protective Factors is that:

There is a strong link between the number of risk and protective factors in a young person's life and the things they do and problems they face.

Link between risk factors and problem behaviours

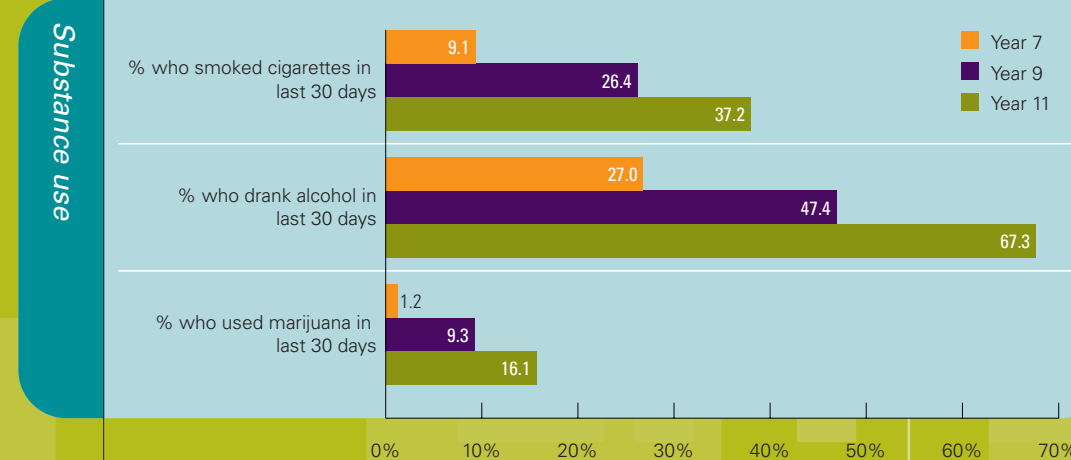


### We also found that:

- Alcohol and tobacco are the most common substances used by Victoria's young people
- More of Victoria's females (26%) than males (21%) are smoking
- By the age of 16, about one third of young people have had sex
- Less than 50% of those who are sexually active use safe sex practices
- One in five young people say they have emotional problems and females are twice as likely as males to report these problems
- More females than males are at risk of homelessness
- Young people in metropolitan Melbourne have similar patterns of behaviour to young people in rural Victoria

## Improving the Lives of Young Victorians in Our Communities

### Young people's substance use in Victoria



### Young people's anti-social behaviour in Victoria

