

Getting Started:

What makes PAYS data valuable?

Helps to determine root causes of problems

- Your PAYS report includes data on risk and protective factors. These factors can be viewed as the root cause of youth problems and of youth well-being. PAYS data enables us **to find and address these root causes**, like low commitment to school, **instead of only looking at the symptoms**, like poor grades or truancy.

Youth report on their own experiences

- This survey asks youth to share their personal experiences across many areas of their lives. It provides an opportunity for youth to directly and confidentially share their experiences of violence, drugs, bullying, depression, and more. Research has found that youth typically respond honestly to confidential surveys, so this data can provide **valuable insight** into the lives of our young people.

Explores many areas of youth lives

- In order to understand our youth, we must understand the many parts, or domains, of their lives. PAYS does this by asking questions about the **youth's community, school, family, and peers**, as well as questions about the youth **themselves**.

Guides prevention planning and priority setting

- The PAYS data can shed a light on areas that need to be addressed by your school or community and will help you to make better data-driven decisions.
- Use your PAYS data to:
 - **Identify strengths and challenges**
 - **Determine priorities**
 - **Understand and direct resources**
 - **Develop a risk-focused strategic plan**
 - **Engage youth in using PAYS data**
 - **Connect to broad-based prevention efforts**

"IT PAYS TO ASK...IT PAYS TO KNOW"