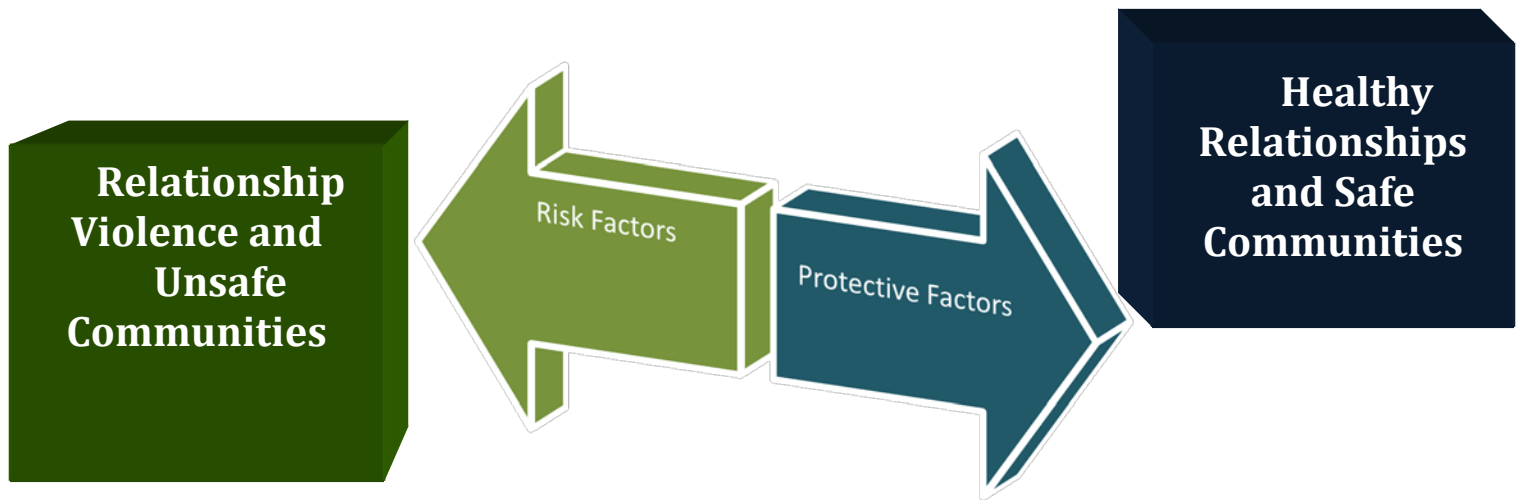


Risk and Protective Factors

Risk factors are those factors associated with the development of violent behavior.

Protective factors (or assets) are factors associated with healthy relationships and non-violent behavior.

These risks may be risks that are individual risks, risks within a peer group, family, school, community, or risks presented by policy or societal conditions. There is no one risk or protective factor that determines violent behavior. It is a combination of risk and protection that influences violent behavior.



These are some examples of risk factors:

- An over inflation of masculine identity (hypermasculinity)
- Impulsive and antisocial tendencies
- Witnessed family violence
- Low academic achievement
- Child maltreatment
- Association with delinquent and aggressive peers
- Male-dominated family or community environment
- High levels of family violence and few resources
- Emotionally unsupportive family environment
- Weak community sanctions against perpetrators
- Settings / policies that support violence (neighborhoods, school tolerance of violence, etc.)
- Community norms that promote aggressiveness
- Poverty and disparities that create challenges for reaching an ideal identity.
- Substance use (seen as often co-occurring and sharing the same root causes)

These are some examples of protective factors:

- Safe and caring adult influences
- Communication, delay, and resolution skills
- Flexible masculine identities
- Safe home environment
- Academic and social success
- Parental and relationship role models
- Peers that support healthy and safe relationships
- Environments that value nonviolent resolution and
- Opportunities to succeed and contribute to a relationship and to the community (learn more about assets <http://www.alaskaice.org/material.php?matID=259>)
- Strong community sanctions against violence
- Community norms that support equality and safe communities