

CASE STUDIES

Case 1) Jason and Dave's Story

Dave, Evelyn and their 10-month-old son Jason were struggling. Jason was born just a few weeks before Evelyn's 18th birthday, and four months before Dave failed his GED and was laid off from his job.

Things had clearly gone wrong since the layoff. Dave had become moody, and he and Evelyn argued more frequently, mostly about money. During several of the arguments, Dave had slapped Evelyn. He begged forgiveness each time, and promised never to hit her again. Worst of all, Dave seemed to have begun resenting Jason. He had never quite mastered feeding and changing, and had stopped trying to learn. He rarely played with the baby, and Evelyn thought what playing he did do was too rough.

Evelyn finally figured out a solution—she'd get a job as a waitress. Even though she would miss being with Jason, they needed the money. Less financial pressure might relieve the pressures that she believed were making Dave more abusive.

Dave didn't fight her idea, but Evelyn had mixed feelings about leaving Jason in his care. He was no model baby sitter, but perhaps time alone together would build his bond with Jason and take his attention off his joblessness. Anyway, there was no choice. She knew none of their neighbors (especially none whom she would trust with Jason), there was a three month waiting list at the local day care, and her family stopped speaking with her when she left home to live with Dave.

As Evelyn left for her first day of work, Dave "hit bottom." All the humiliation—the layoff, the rejections from Evelyn's parents, and his new status as babysitter—descended at once. He heard Jason's crying as yet another insult, not a cry for his mother. Whatever Jason's problem was, Dave couldn't fix it. The more he tried, the louder Jason cried, and the deeper his own despair and frustration went.

Dave's self-control finally broke when Jason wet on him. He clamped his hand over the baby's mouth and shook him to "get his attention." After several violent shakes, Jason's crying stopped, but his lifeless body hung in Dave's hands.

Case 2) Andy and Bob's Story

Plainstown had been known as a "drinking town." Men's reputations depended on toughness, sexual and beer-drinking prowess, and family honor. Big Saturday night beer parties were a local tradition, and everyone knew that some of the biggest and wildest parties happened at Andy's family farm.

In the "tough" town, Andy's friend Bob was one of the toughest. Like his father before him, Bob began drinking in the seventh grade and had accumulated records of school fights and simple assaults. He nearly always won the fights, but had recently been expelled from school after he came to school drunk and got into a fight with a younger student.

Andy invited Bob to the farm one Saturday night to "party and forget what happened." Once there, Bob quickly drank a six-pack of beer and began making passes at Andy's sister, Charlene. Charlene had never liked Bob, and the more she resisted his advances, the more aggressive he became. Finally fed up, she slapped Bob hard across the mouth and he stepped back and fell. As he picked himself up, half the crowd was laughing at him. The other half was yelling at Charlene to "make it up to him like a good girl." Andy saw his sister's honor at stake.

Andy lunged at Bob. The two fought in the yard until Bob ran to his car and yanked out a tire iron. He used the tire iron to knock Andy unconscious to the ground. The crowd fell silent only after Bob jumped into his car, ran over Andy twice, and roared away. After what seemed like forever, an ambulance responded and took Andy to the hospital emergency room where he later died.

PROTECTING our FAMILY and COMMUNITY

Risk Factors for Five Youth Behavioral Issues

Research has shown that adolescents in high-risk environments have increased levels of substance abuse, violence, delinquency, teen pregnancy and school dropout. The Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services/Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services (ADAS) collects and analyzes data at the the State, regional and county levels to measure the incidence and prevalence of these problems. The risk-focused prevention model has also identified promising program approaches that can reduce these concerns. For more information, contact ADAS or your regional prevention center.

Reproduced with permission from SRS/ADAS	Substance Abuse	Delinquency	Teen Pregnancy	School Dropout	Violence
Community					
Availability of drugs	☆				
Availability of firearms		☆			☆
Community laws and norms favorable toward drug use, firearms and crime	☆	☆			☆
Media portrayals of violence					☆
Transitions and mobility	☆	☆		☆	
Low neighborhood attachment and community disorganization	☆	☆			☆
Extreme economic deprivation	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆
Family					
Family history of the problem behavior	☆	☆	☆	☆	
Family management problems	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆
Family conflict	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆
Favorable parental attitudes and involvement in the behavior	☆	☆			☆
School					
Early and persistent anti-social behavior	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆
Academic failure in elementary school	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆
Lack of commitment to school	☆	☆	☆	☆	
Individual/Peer					
Alienation and rebelliousness	☆	☆		☆	
Friends who engage in a problem behavior	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆
Favorable attitudes toward the problem behavior	☆	☆	☆	☆	
Early initiation of the problem behavior	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆
Constitutional factors	☆	☆			☆

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HANDOUT