**Why This Matters:**

Behavioral health (BH) promotion efforts enhance the social-emotional development and learning (SEDL) of children and result in short-term benefits such as improved academic performance and school safety. They have also been shown to produce long-term benefits in reduced crime, violence, poverty, substance abuse and various behavioral disorders over a lifetime. When SEDL interventions are offered early, in prekindergarten through primary school grades, they result in improved population health and wellness. Because resources are limited, state and local governments, school districts and service providers need to identify those communities where services are most needed. These BH risk indicators can help improve planning for efficient use of limited resources.

**Data Provider:**  
NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services

**Data Source:**  
NYS Education Department
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