



Fast Facts about Developmental Assets for Young People*

Immunizations keep young children healthy and protect them from disease. Similarly, Developmental Assets help kids make healthy choices and inoculate them against a wide range of risk-taking behaviors, including substance abuse, violence, and school failure. The more assets young people have, the more likely they are to be healthy.

Most young people surveyed by Search Institute have at least some assets (83 percent say they have 11 or more). But having only some of the assets is like getting only some of your shots. You might be protected against measles, but you could still get polio or hepatitis. That's why it's important to focus on giving young people all of the assets they need to be healthy.

Other facts about Developmental Assets:

- **Young people with more assets are less likely to engage in risk-taking behaviors.**

Young people with 10 or fewer assets say they are involved in an average of about 3.9 high-risk behaviors. Young people with 31 assets or more report an average of less than 1 high-risk behavior.

- **As young people's assets increase, their positive behaviors also increase.**

While young people with 10 or fewer assets report an average of 2.8 positive behaviors, those with 31 assets or more average 6.2 positive behaviors. This includes succeeding in school, helping others, valuing diversity, and exhibiting leadership.

- **The average young person surveyed has 18.6 of the 40 assets.**

But levels of assets decrease for older youth. While the average student in grade six surveyed has 23 assets, the average student in grade 12 surveyed has 17.8 assets.

- **The most common is asset 40: Positive View of Personal Future.** Seventy-two percent of young people surveyed report having this asset.

- **The least common is asset 17: Creative Activities.** Only 21 percent of young people report having this asset.

- **Girls, on average, have more assets than boys.** However, boys are more likely to have assets 10: Safety; 18: Youth Programs; 38: Self-Esteem; and 39: Sense of Purpose.

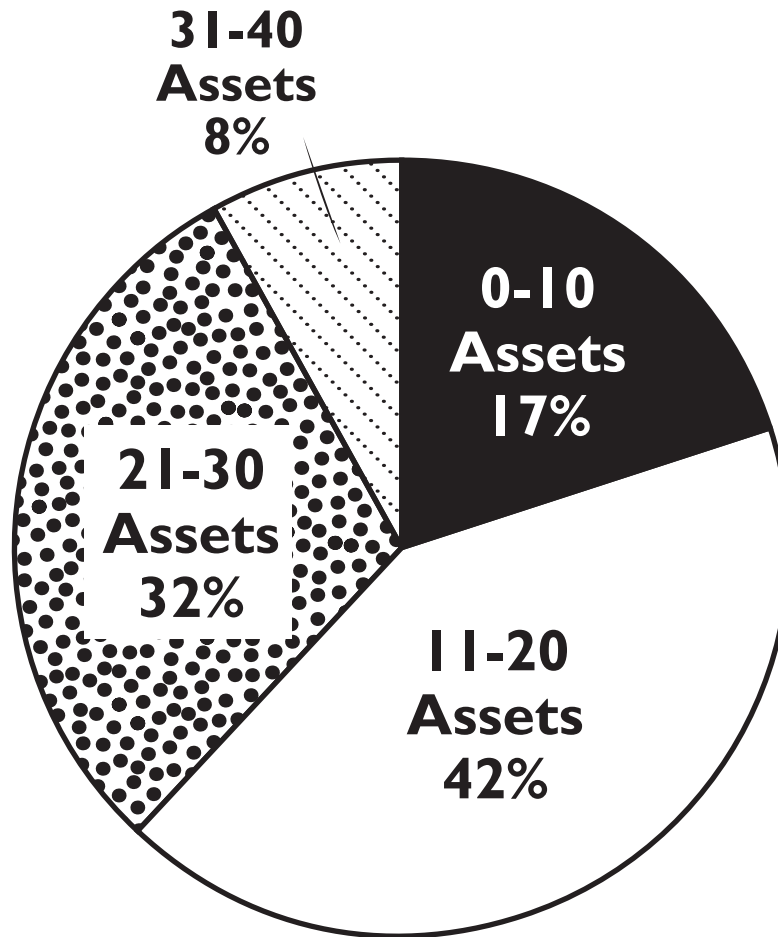
- **Most assets decrease in frequency between grades 6 and 12. The assets that decrease the most are** 31: Restraint (74 percent of grade 6 students vs. 25 percent of grade 12 students); 12: School Boundaries (76 percent vs. 40 percent); and 15: Positive Peer Influence (88 percent vs. 50 percent).

- **Assets that increase in frequency between grades 6 and 12 are** 10: Safety (43 percent vs. 63 percent); 37: Personal Power (39 percent vs. 51 percent); and 28: Integrity (66 percent vs. 76 percent).

*Based on data from the Search Institute Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behaviors survey; gathered in 2003 from almost 150,000 students in grades 6 to 12 (ages approximately 11 to 18) from 202 communities in 27 U.S. states.



THE GAP IN ASSETS AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE*



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Percentages do not total to 100 percent due to rounding.