

Developmental Assets: A Profile of Our Youth



2022 Search Institute Survey

Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behaviors

Key Results

What will be covered?

- Overview
- What are the 40 Developmental Assets?
- What do our students say?
- Current Risk-Behaviors
- The Power of Assets
- What have we learned?

Overview

- In order to gain a better understanding of student's attitudes and actions relating to at-risk behaviors, the Hopewell Valley Municipal Alliance and the Hopewell Valley Regional School District surveyed 1,331 students in grades 6–12 in May.
- The survey results give an assessment of protective factors (Developmental Assets) present in the lives of our youth and measures the level of risk-behavior (tobacco, alcohol, other drugs, violence).
- The results provide an opportunity for evaluation, planning and change.

What are Developmental Assets?

Introduced by the Search Institute, they are 40 common sense, positive experiences and qualities that help influence choices a young person makes.

- **External Assets:** Positive experiences that surround youth with support, personal boundaries and expectations provided by families, schools, neighborhoods, community groups, and other family serving organizations.
- **Internal Assets:** Individual qualities that guide strong positive values, educational commitments and develop a sense of confidence, passion, and purpose.

External Assets

- **Support** 1. Family support 2. Positive family communication 3. Other adult relationships 4. Caring neighborhood 5. Caring school climate 6. Parent involvement in schooling
- **Empowerment** 7. Community values youth 8. Children as resources 9. Service to others 10. Safety
- **Boundaries & Expectations** 11. Family boundaries 12. School Boundaries 13. Neighborhood boundaries 14. Adult role models 15. Positive Peer Influence 16. High expectations
- **Constructive Use of Time** 17. Creative activities 18. Child programs 19. Religious community 20. Time at home

Internal Assets

- **Commitment to Learning** 21. **Achievement Motivation** 22. **Learning Engagement** 23. **Homework** 24. **Bonding to school** 25. **Reading for Pleasure**
- **Positive Values** 26. **Caring** 27. **Equality and social justice** 28. **Integrity** 29. **Honesty** 30. **Responsibility** 31. **Healthy Lifestyle**
- **Social Competencies** 32. **Planning and decision making** 33. **Interpersonal Competence** 34. **Cultural Competence** 35. **Resistance skills** 36. **Peaceful Conflict Resolution**
- **Positive Identity** 37. **Personal power** 38. **Self-esteem** 39. **Sense of purpose** 40. **Positive view of personal future**

More assets = Better outcomes

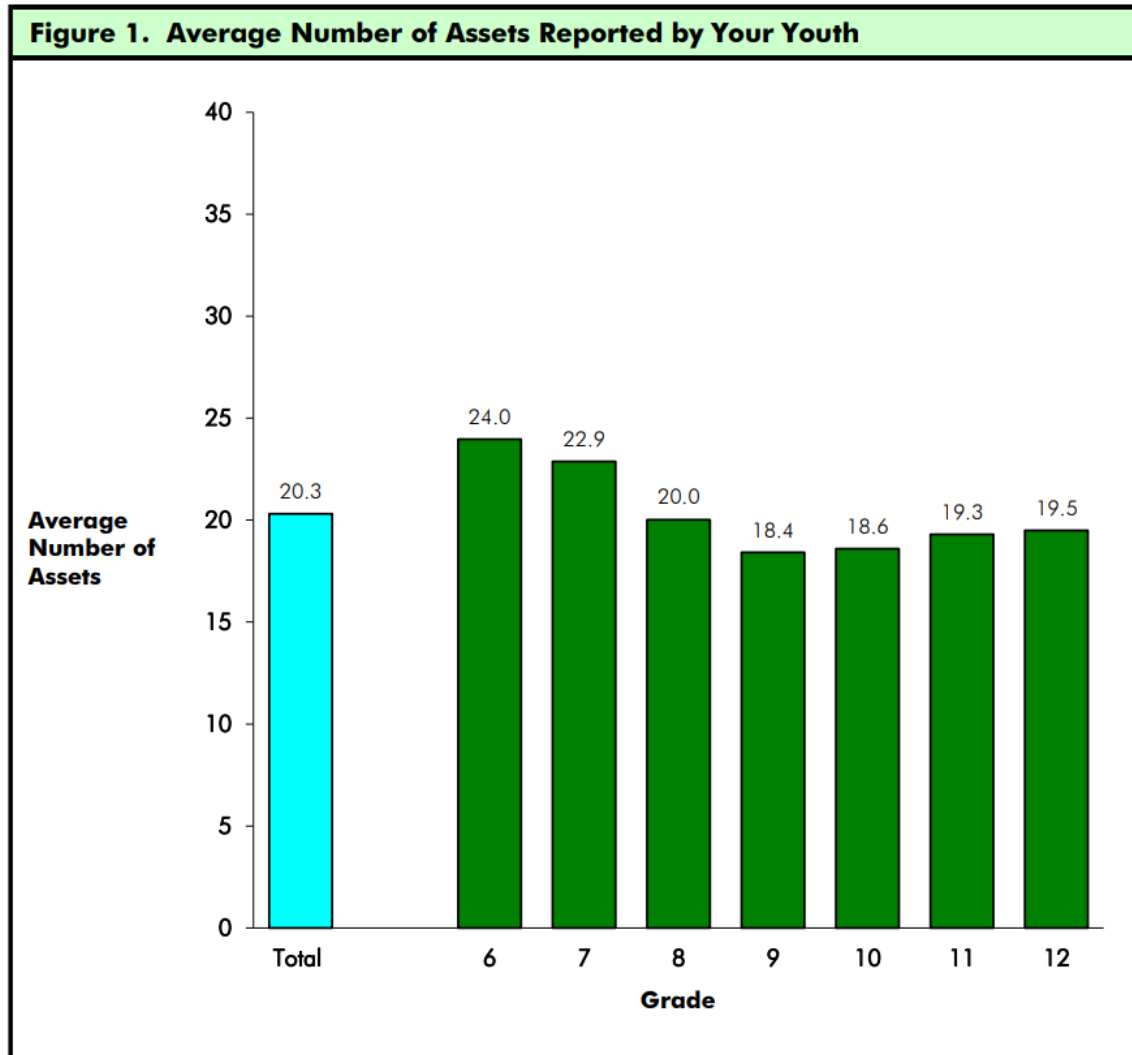
- For optimal youth outcomes, the more assets youth have, the better.
- Having 31–40 assets is better than 21–30, which is better than having 11–20, and so on.
- In an ideal world, communities would strive to ensure that all youth eventually experience between 31 and 40 of the Developmental Assets.



Students Surveyed

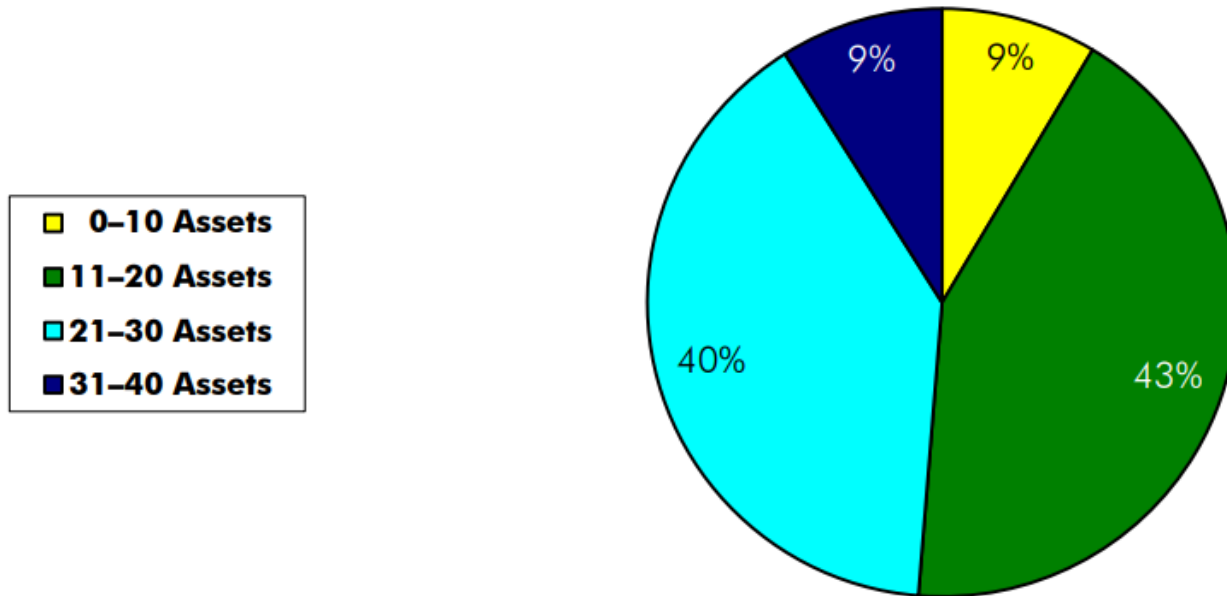
Table 1. Youth Who Were Surveyed				
		Actual Number of Youth	Adjusted Number of Youth	Adjusted Percent of Total
Total Sample¹		1341		100
Gender^{2,3}	Female	600	606	48
	Male	643	649	52
	Transgender, male-to-female	6	0	0
	Transgender, female-to-male	6	0	0
	Transgender, do not identify as exclusively male or female	48	0	0
	Not sure	35	0	0
Grade²	6	171		13
	7	221		17
	8	208		16
	9	199		15
	10	181		14
	11	175		13
	12	179		13
Race/Ethnicity²	American Indian or Alaska Native	11		1
	Asian	177		13
	Black or African American	40		3
	Hispanic or Latino/Latina	42		3
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1		0
	White	844		63
	Other	41		3
	More than one of the above	174		13

How many assets do our students experience?



What percent of our students experience Developmental Assets?

Figure 2. The Asset Challenge Facing Your Community



What do our students say?

Students tell us they are ***strongest*** in the following assets:

- Family Support: **74%**
- Positive Peer Influence: **81%**
- Youth Programs: **68%**
- Achievement Motivation: **74%**
- School Engagement: **82%**
- Equality & Social Justice: **71%**
- Integrity: **74%**
- Honesty: **68%**
- Responsibility: **70%**

What do our students say?

Students tell us they are *weakest* in the following assets:

- Positive Family communication: **34%**
- Caring School Climate: **33%**
- Parent Involvement in Schooling: **22%**
- Community Values Youth: **24%**
- Adult Role Models: **39%**
- Restraint: **43%**
- Planning and Decision-Making: **40%**
- Personal Power: **38%**
- Self-Esteem: **41%**

Current Risk-Behaviors

- **Alcohol 22%** (used once or more in the last 30 days)

6th (5%) 7th (6%) 8th (7%) 9th (22%) 10th (27%) 11th (40%) 12th (51%)

- **Tobacco 3%** (smoked once or more in the last 30 days)

6th (0%) 7th (0%) 8th (2%) 9th (12%) 10th (13%) 11th (21%) 12th (32%)

- **Vaping 12%** (tobacco, marijuana once or more in the last 30 days)

6th (1%) 7th (0%) 8th (2%) 9th (15%) 10th (18%) 11th (22%) 12th (26%)

- **Marijuana 9%** (used once or more in the last 30 days)

6th (1%) 7th (0%) 8th (2%) 9th (11%) 10th (12%) 11th (18%) 12th (19%)

- **Drinking 3%** (drove after drinking in the last 12 months)

6th (0%) 7th (0%) 8th (0%) 9th (6%) 10th (4%) 11th (6%) 12th (7%)

Current Risk-Behaviors

- Driving and Alcohol **16%** (rode once or more in the last 12 months with a driver who has been drinking)

6th (11%) 7th (14%) 8th (14%) 9th (20%) 10th (22%) 11th (16%) 12th (12%)

- Violence **16%** (hit someone once or more in the last 12 months)

6th (14%) 7th (15%) 8th (13%) 9th (25%) 10th (19%) 11th (13%) 12th (10%)

- Eating Disorder **23%** (has engaged in bulimic or anorexic behavior)

6th (26%) 7th (14%) 8th (23%) 9th (30%) 10th (26%) 11th (25%) 12th (22%)

- Depression **18%** (felt sad or depressed most or all of the time in the last month)

6th (18%) 7th (15%) 8th (15%) 9th (21%) 10th (19%) 11th (18%) 12th (17%)

- Attempted Suicide **11%** (has attempted suicide one or more times)

6th (9%) 7th (8%) 8th (9%) 9th (17%) 10th (14%) 11th (12%) 12th (11%)

The Power of Assets

Table 17. Percent of Youth Reporting Nine Substance Use-Related Risk-Taking Behaviors by Asset Level

Risk-Taking Behavior		Total Sample	Number of Assets ¹²			
Category	Definition		0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40
Alcohol	Used alcohol once or more in the last 30 days	22	44	26	18	6
	Got drunk once or more in the last two weeks	11	24	14	6	3
Tobacco	Smoked cigarettes once or more in the last 30 days	3	13	4	1	0
	Used smokeless tobacco once or more in the last 12 months	2	11	2	0	0
Vaping	Vaped tobacco, nicotine, or marijuana once or more in the last 30 days	12	37	16	5	0
Marijuana	Used marijuana or hashish once or more in the last 30 days	9	27	10	5	0
Other Drug Use	Used heroin or other narcotics once or more in the last 12 months	2	10	2	0	0
Driving and Alcohol	Drove after drinking once or more in the last 12 months	3	10	4	1	0
	Rode (once or more in the last 12 months) with a driver who had been drinking	16	32	20	10	3

The Power of Assets

Table 18. Percent of Youth Reporting 15 Additional Risk-Taking Behaviors by Asset Level						
Risk-Taking Behavior		Total Sample	Number of Assets¹³			
Category	Definition		0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40
Violence	Hit someone once or more in the last 12 months	16	31	19	10	2
	Physically hurt someone once or more in the last 12 months	7	21	8	3	1
	Used a weapon to get something from a person once or more in the last 12 months	2	10	3	1	0
	Been in a group fight once or more in the last 12 months	10	20	11	8	3
	Carried a weapon for protection once or more in the last 12 months	9	24	11	5	0
	Threatened physical harm to someone once or more in the last 12 months	15	30	19	9	2
Eating Disorder	Has engaged in bulimic or anorexic behavior	23	48	27	17	8
Depression	Felt sad or depressed most or all of the time in the last month	18	35	24	10	2
Attempted Suicide	Has attempted suicide one or more times	11	31	15	5	0

LGBTQ+ Student Snapshot

- 434 students (33%)
- Experience average of 18 assets
- Most assets aligned with the exception of the Empowerment and Positive Identity categories and specifically Family Support, Positive Family Communication being lower
- Most risk taking behaviors aligned with the exception of tobacco, vaping and marijuana use being higher.
- Additional risk-taking behaviors being higher were Eating Disorders, Depression and Attempted Suicide (22%)

Other items of note

- 25% of juniors and 34% of seniors attended 5 or more parties in the last 12 months “where other kids their age were drinking” compared to 8% of 9th graders and 9% of 10th graders.
- In an average week, 18% of 9th graders responded ‘none’ to “how many times do all of the people in your family who live with you eat dinner together.”
- 30% of 11th graders think there is no risk in smoking marijuana once or twice a week.
- 66% of 10th graders and 62% of 12th graders think it’s very wrong to use prescription drugs not prescribed to them.

What have we learned?

- Alcohol continues to be the number one drug of choice
- Marijuana is perceived as less of a risk than other substances with less parent disapproval.
- To be continually mindful of suicide risk of students, especially those who identify LGBTQ+
- A third of our students surveyed identify as LGBTQ+
- Eating disorders impact almost a quarter of students surveyed

What can we do?

- Help build assets in our children's lives
- Become familiar with the list of 40 Developmental Assets
- Have children and parents complete an asset check-list
- Visit: www.search-institute.org
www.keepconnected.searchinstitute.org
www.hvalliance.org

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