

## The Power of Developmental Assets

Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets™ are concrete, positive, common-sense experiences and qualities essential to the health of young people. These assets have the power to influence choices that young people make and to help them grow as caring, responsible persons.

### The Power of Assets to Promote

Having more assets increases the chances that young people will have positive attitudes and behaviors. Research with young people in grades 6-12 has found that young people with more assets are more likely to participate in eight positive behaviors. Here are some examples of these behaviors, with the definitions used by Search Institute.

	0-10 assets	11-20 assets	21-30 assets	31-40 assets
<b>Succeeds in School</b> Gets mostly A's on report card.	7%	19%	35%	53%
<b>Values Diversity</b> Places high importance on getting to know people of other racial/ethnic groups.	34%	53%	69%	87%
<b>Maintains Good Health</b> Pays attention to healthy nutrition and exercise.	25%	46%	69%	88%
<b>Delays Gratification</b> Saves money for something special rather than spending it all right away.	27%	42%	56%	72%

### The Power of Assets to Protect

Experiencing the Developmental Assets in their lives can help protect young people from making harmful and unhealthy choices. Youth with more assets are less likely to engage in 24 risky behaviors, such as tobacco use, gambling, violence, and shoplifting. Here are some examples from the research with students in grades 6-12, including the definitions used by Search Institute.

	0-10 assets	11-20 assets	21-30 assets	31-40 assets
<b>Problem Alcohol Use</b> Has used alcohol three or more times in the past 30 days or got drunk one or more times in the past two weeks.	53%	30%	11%	3%
<b>Illicit Drug Use</b> Used illicit drugs (cocaine, LSD, PCP or angel dust, heroin, and amphetamines) three or more times in the past 12 months.	42%	19%	6%	1%
<b>Sexual Activity</b> Has had sexual intercourse three or more times in lifetime.	33%	21%	10%	3%
<b>Violence</b> Has engaged in three or more acts of fighting, hitting, injuring a person, carrying a weapon, or threatening physical harm in the past 12 months.	61%	35%	16%	6%