

DATA SHEET

Developmental Assets among U.S. Youth: 2018 Update

Between 2012 and 2015, 121,157 US youth, grades 6 to 12, completed Search Institute’s *Attitudes & Behaviors Survey*. Here are youth reports of each of the 40 assets, including a breakdown by gender (female and male).

	All youth	Female	Male		All youth	Female	Male
Sample Size:	121,157	60,973	57,873				
EXTERNAL ASSETS				INTERNAL ASSETS			
Support				Commitment to Learning			
Family support	73%	72%	76%	Achievement motivation	75%	81%	69%
Positive family communication	33%	33%	33%	School engagement	63%	69%	57%
Other adult relationships	52%	53%	52%	Homework	54%	60%	48%
Caring neighborhood	38%	36%	40%	Bonding to school	64%	65%	63%
Caring school climate	37%	37%	38%	Reading for pleasure	22%	27%	16%
Parent involvement in schooling	32%	31%	32%	Positive Values			
Empowerment				Caring	58%	66%	51%
Community values youth	25%	24%	26%	Equality and social justice	60%	69%	52%
Youth as resources	32%	31%	33%	Integrity	75%	80%	70%
Service to others	52%	56%	48%	Honesty	71%	76%	66%
Safety	53%	43%	63%	Responsibility	70%	73%	67%
Boundaries and Expectations				Restraint	47%	52%	43%
Family boundaries	46%	49%	44%	Social Competencies			
School boundaries	57%	57%	57%	Planning and decision-making	36%	39%	33%
Neighborhood boundaries	46%	46%	45%	Interpersonal competence	48%	59%	37%
Adult role models	32%	34%	30%	Cultural competence	45%	49%	41%
Positive peer influence	72%	74%	70%	Resistance skills	48%	51%	45%
High expectations	57%	57%	58%	Peaceful conflict resolution	49%	58%	40%
Constructive Use of Time				Positive Identity			
Creative activities	20%	24%	15%	Personal power	44%	42%	46%
Youth programs	65%	65%	66%	Self-esteem	49%	42%	57%
Religious community	49%	51%	47%	Sense of purpose	61%	55%	68%
Time at home	64%	65%	64%	Positive view of personal future	73%	73%	74%

For a definition of each asset, visit www.searchinstitute.org/our-research/development-assets

Percentage of Youth (Grades 6 to 12) Reporting Selected High-Risk Behavior Patterns and Thriving Indicators, by Levels of Developmental Assets

	Average of All Youth	Percent of Youth, Grades 6-12, Engaging in Each Behavior Based on the Number of Assets Reported			
		0-10 Assets	11-20 Assets	21-30 Assets	31-40 Assets
HIGH-RISK BEHAVIORS —The more assets youth experience, the less likely they are to engage in high-risk behaviors					
Violence —Youth who have engaged in three or more acts of fighting, hitting, injuring a person, carrying or using a weapon, or threatening physical harm in the past year.	21%	53%	27%	11%	3%
Sexual Intercourse —Youth who have had sexual intercourse three or more times in their lifetimes.	15%	31%	20%	10%	3%
Problem Alcohol Use —Youth who have used alcohol three or more times in the past 30 days or got drunk once or more in the past two weeks.	17%	39%	22%	10%	2%
Tobacco Use —Youth who smoke cigarettes daily or use chewing tobacco.	5%	17%	6%	1%	0%
Driving and Alcohol —Youth who have driven after drinking or ridden with a drinking driver three or more times in the past 12 months.	11%	27%	14%	6%	2%
INDICATORS OF THRIVING —The more assets youth experience, the more likely they are to engage in thriving behaviors.					
Does Well in School —Youth who report getting mostly As on their report cards.	31%	10%	23%	39%	57%
Maintains Good Health —Youth reporting they pay attention to healthy nutrition and exercise.	61%	29%	50%	73%	91%
Helps Others —Youth who help friends or neighbors one or more hours per week.	76%	56%	71%	83%	92%
Overcomes Adversity —Youth who do not give up when things get difficult.	69%	51%	62%	77%	86%
Exhibits Leadership —Youth who have been a leader of a group or organization in the past 12 months.	72%	50%	68%	79%	86%

For more information and resources on Developmental Assets, visit www.searchinstitute.org/our-research/development-assets

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