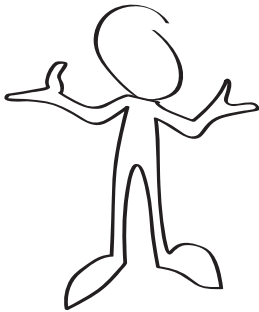


# The Power of the 40 Developmental Assets



Search Institute has identified 40 building blocks of healthy development that help young people grow up healthy, caring, and responsible.<sup>1</sup> Researchers have found that these 40 Developmental Assets are powerful influences on how teenagers act.<sup>2</sup> This is true for all teenagers, regardless of their socioeconomic upbringing, their race, their ethnicity, their gender, and where they live.<sup>3</sup>

## Developmental Assets Up; Risky Behaviors Down

The Developmental Assets protect young people. The more Developmental Assets a young person has, the less likely he or she will make harmful or unhealthy choices.<sup>4</sup>

- While 45 percent of teenagers who have 10 Developmental Assets or fewer are likely to use alcohol, only 3 percent of teenagers who have 31 or more Developmental Assets use alcohol.<sup>5</sup>
- While 62 percent of teenagers who have 10 Developmental Assets or fewer are likely to become violent, only 6 percent of teenagers who have 31 or more Developmental Assets are.<sup>6</sup>
- Search Institute researchers have found this pattern in 24 different risky behaviors, such as using drugs, gambling, and sexual intercourse.<sup>7</sup>

## Developmental Assets Up; Positive Behaviors Up

The Developmental Assets promote positive behaviors in young people. The more Developmental Assets a young person has, the more likely he or she will act in ways that we value as a society.<sup>8</sup>

- While only 9 percent of teenagers who have 10 Developmental Assets or fewer are likely to succeed in school, 54 percent of teenagers who have 31 or more Developmental Assets are.<sup>9</sup>
- While only 48 percent of teenagers who have 10 Developmental Assets or fewer are likely to exhibit leadership, 87 percent of teenagers who have 31 or more Developmental Assets do exhibit leadership.<sup>10</sup>
- Search Institute researchers have found this pattern in eight different positive behaviors (which they call thriving indicators), such as helping others, resisting danger, and maintaining good health.<sup>11</sup>

# The Power of the 40 Developmental Assets

## Developmental Assets Up; Financial Literacy and Skills Up

Search Institute researchers say that young people with 31 or more of the Developmental Assets are more likely to make positive money choices and avoid poor ones.<sup>12</sup> Research reveals:

- While only 27 percent of teenagers who have 10 Developmental Assets or fewer are likely to save money, 72 percent of teenagers who have 31 or more Developmental Assets save money.<sup>13</sup>
- While 49 percent of teenagers who have 10 Developmental Assets or fewer are likely to gamble, only 13 percent of teenagers who have 31 or more Developmental Assets are.<sup>14</sup>
- While 75 percent of adults say it's important to give teenagers financial advice, only 36 percent actually do.<sup>15</sup> Women are more likely than men to talk about money with kids.<sup>16</sup>

## The Challenge

Search Institute researchers say that young people need 31 or more of the Developmental Assets in order to succeed.<sup>17</sup> This benchmark allows young people to experience the most positive effects and outcomes most strongly.<sup>18</sup> The challenge, however, is:

- Only 8 percent of teenagers have 31 or more of the Developmental Assets.<sup>19</sup>
- Teenage guys average 17.2 Developmental Assets, compared to teenage girls who average 19.9 Developmental Assets.<sup>20</sup>
- As teenagers get older, the number of Developmental Assets they have drops. While sixth graders have an average of 23 Developmental Assets, high school seniors have an average of 17.8 Developmental Assets.<sup>21</sup>

## Learn More

Search Institute researchers continue to expand and deepen their research about what teenagers and their parents need to succeed. Learn more by:

- Downloading a free copy of the 40 Developmental Assets and learning more about the 40 Developmental Assets from <http://www.mvparents.com/why/developmental-assets>.
- Helping parents talk about money with their teenagers at <http://www.mvparents.com/parenting/money>.
- Downloading free copies of the 40 Developmental Assets lists for different age groups and for people who speak other languages at <http://www.search-institute.org/developmental-assets/lists>.

# The Power of the 40 Developmental Assets

## Sources

<sup>1</sup>Peter L. Benson, Ph.D., *All Kids Are Our Kids: What Communities Must Do to Raise Caring and Responsible Children and Adolescents*, Second Edition, (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2006), 23-98.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>Search Institute, *The Asset Approach: 40 Elements of Healthy Behavior* (Minneapolis: Search Institute, 2006), 3.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid.

<sup>7</sup>Search Institute, *Developmental Assets: A Profile of Your Youth, Executive Summary* (Minneapolis: Search Institute, 2005), 20-21.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid.

<sup>9</sup>Search Institute, *The Asset Approach: 40 Elements of Healthy Behavior* (Minneapolis: Search Institute, 2006), 3.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid.

<sup>11</sup>Search Institute, *Developmental Assets: A Profile of Your Youth, Executive Summary* (Minneapolis: Search Institute, 2005), 31.

<sup>12</sup>Search Institute, *Developmental Assets: A Profile of Your Youth, Executive Summary* (Minneapolis: Search Institute, 2005), 28, 31.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid., p. 31.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid., p. 28.

<sup>15</sup>Peter Scales, Peter Benson, and Eugene Roehlkepartain, *Grading Grown-Ups: American Adults Report on Their Real Relationships with Kids* (Minneapolis: Search Institute, 2001), p. 33.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid., 82.

<sup>17</sup>Peter L. Benson, 71-73.

<sup>18</sup>Search Institute, *The Asset Approach: 40 Elements of Healthy Behavior* (Minneapolis: Search Institute, 2006), 4.

<sup>19</sup>Ibid.

<sup>20</sup>Ibid.

<sup>21</sup>Ibid.