

# THE POWER OF ASSETS

On one level, the 40 Developmental Assets represent common wisdom about the kinds of positive experiences and characteristics that young people need and deserve. But their value extends further. Surveys of over 89,000 students in grades 6–12 (ages approximately 11–18 years) reveal that assets are powerful influences on adolescent behavior. Regardless of gender, ethnic heritage, economic situation, or geographic location, these assets both promote positive behaviors and attitudes and help protect young people from many different problem behaviors.

0–10 assets

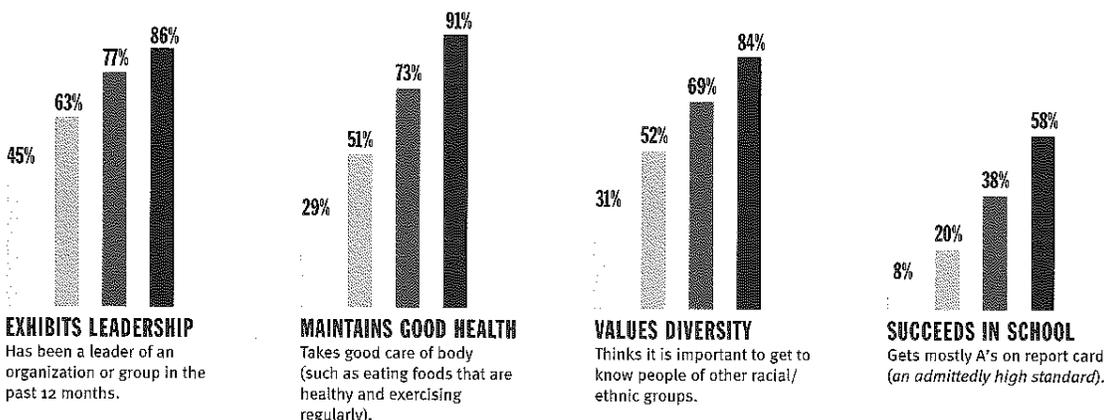
11–20 assets

21–30 assets

31–40 assets

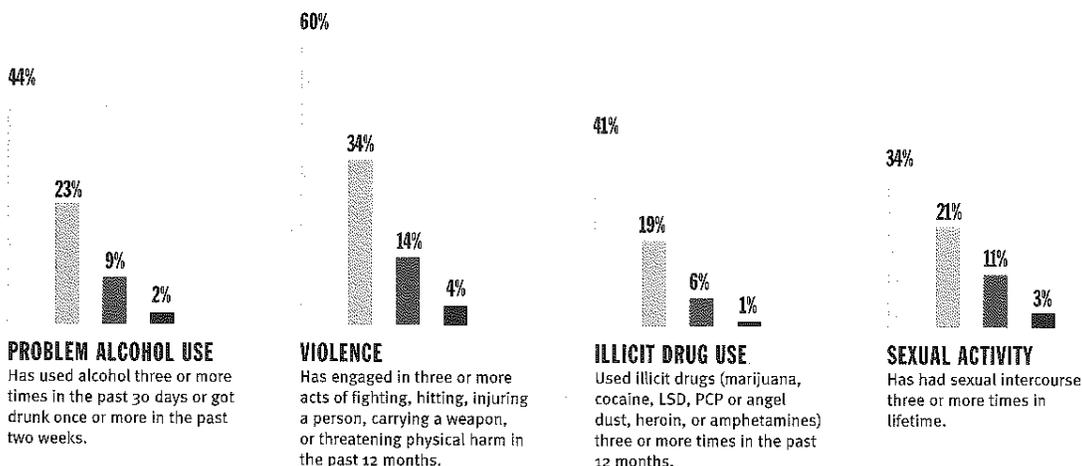
## PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIORS AND ATTITUDES

Our research shows that the more assets students report having, the more likely they are to also report the following patterns of thriving behavior:



## PROTECTING YOUTH FROM HIGH-RISK BEHAVIORS

Assets not only promote positive behaviors, they also protect young people: The more assets a young person reports having, the less likely he or she is to make harmful or unhealthy choices. (Note that these definitions are set rather high, suggesting ongoing problems, not experimentation.)



For more information go to [www.searchinstitute.org](http://www.searchinstitute.org); *A Fragile Foundation: The State of Developmental Assets among American Youth*, available as a download; and *Developmental Assets: A Synthesis of the Scientific Research on Adolescent Development*, available as a printed book.