

Youth Priorities 2010-11

What young people in Gogebic and Ontonagon counties want you to know about their healthy development

More than 50 young people gathered at the Gogebic-Ontonagon Youth Asset Summit February 18, 2010 to review results of the *Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behaviors* survey conducted by the Great Lakes Center for Youth Development. (See back of sheet for results.) Using data from the survey, students determined which of the 40 Developmental Assets they consider to be the greatest strengths of the two-county area and which assets are in most need of improvement. They also planned ways to build the assets of greatest concern in their schools and communities.

Strengths

- **Family Support** Asset 1: Family life provides high levels of love and support
- **High Expectations** Asset 16: Both parent(s) and teachers encourage the young person to do well
- **Safety** Asset 1: Young person feels safe at home, at school and in the neighborhood

Areas of Concern

- **Caring School Climate** Asset 5: School provides a caring, encouraging climate
- **Honesty** Asset 29: Young person “tells the truth even when it is not easy”
- **Restraint** Asset 31: Young person believes it is important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs



Students at the 2010 Gogebic-Ontonagon Youth Asset Summit discuss the results of the *Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behaviors* survey administered in spring 2009.

What are the 40 Assets?

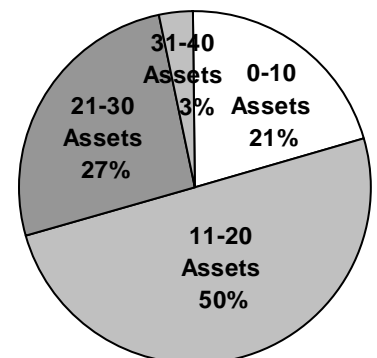
The 40 Developmental Assets are strengths or building blocks that kids need to grow up healthy, competent and caring. Research shows that youth with more assets experience greater success in life and participate in fewer risk-taking behaviors.

Youth need parents, schools and communities to:

- Encourage them and show they care
- Model honesty and teach them to tell the truth even when it is not easy
- Provide opportunities to discuss sensitive issues and model appropriate behavior

2009 Gogebic and Ontonagon County Youth by Asset Levels

While there is no “magic number” of assets kids should have, those with at least half of the 40 Assets are much less prone to risk-taking behavior. Yet as the chart shows, only 30 percent of youth surveyed in Gogebic and Ontonagon counties have 21 or more assets, and perhaps more concerning, 21 percent have 10 or fewer assets.



40 Developmental Assets

The 40 Developmental Assets have been identified by Search Institute as key individual or environmental resources that enable and nurture young people to develop in healthy, positive ways. Percentages are for the 532 students in 8th, 10th & 12th grades in Gogebic and Ontonagon counties who were surveyed in 2009.

	Asset Type	Asset Name and Definition	%
External Assets	Support	1. Family support -- Family life provides high levels of love and support	68%
		2. Positive family communication -- Young person and her or his parent(s) communicate positively, and young person is willing to seek advice and counsel from parent(s)	24%
		3. Other adult relationships -- Young person receives support from three or more nonparent adults	45%
		4. Caring neighborhood -- Young person experiences caring neighbors	37%
		5. Caring school climate -- School provides a caring, encouraging environment	19%
		6. Parent involvement in schooling -- Parent(s) are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school	25%
	Empowerment	7. Community values youth -- Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth	16%
		8. Youth as resources -- Young people are given useful roles in the community	17%
		9. Service to others -- Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week	42%
		10. Safety -- Young person feels safe at home, at school, and in the neighborhood	60%
	Boundaries & Expectations	11. Family boundaries -- Family has clear rules and consequences and monitors the young person's whereabouts	37%
		12. School boundaries -- School provides clear rules and consequences	47%
		13. Neighborhood boundaries -- Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people's behavior	45%
		14. Adult role models -- Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behavior	17%
		15. Positive peer influence -- Young person's best friends model responsible behavior	51%
		16. High expectations -- Both parent(s) and teachers encourage the young person to do well	35%
Constructive Use of Time	17. Creative activities -- Young person spends three or more hours per week in lessons or practice in music, theater, or other arts	13%	
	18. Youth programs -- Young person spends three or more hours per week in sports, clubs, or organizations at school and/or in the community	57%	
	19. Religious community -- Young person spends one or more hours per week in activities in a religious institution	38%	
	20. Time at home -- Young person is out with friends "with nothing special to do" two or fewer nights per week	57%	
Internal Assets	Commitment to Learning	21. Achievement motivation -- Young person is motivated to do well in school	61%
		22. School engagement -- Young person is actively engaged in learning	61%
		23. Homework -- Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day	37%
		24. Bonding to school -- Young person cares about her or his school	45%
		25. Reading for pleasure -- Young person reads for pleasure three or more hours per week	27%
	Positive Values	26. Caring -- Young person places high value on helping other people	40%
		27. Equality and social justice -- Young person places high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty	42%
		28. Integrity -- Young person acts on convictions and stands up for her or his beliefs	64%
		29. Honesty -- Young person "tells the truth even when it is not easy"	67%
		30. Responsibility -- Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility	65%
		31. Restraint -- Young person believes it is important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs	26%
	Social Competencies	32. Planning and decision making -- Young person knows how to plan ahead and make choices	28%
		33. Interpersonal competence -- Young person has empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills	41%
		34. Cultural competence -- Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds	23%
35. Resistance skills -- Young person can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations		32%	
36. Peaceful conflict resolution -- Young person seeks to resolve conflict nonviolently		34%	
Positive Identity	37. Personal power -- Young person feels he or she has control over "things that happen to me"	44%	
	38. Self-esteem -- Young person reports having a high self-esteem	48%	
	39. Sense of purpose -- Young person reports that "my life has a purpose"	60%	
	40. Positive view of personal future -- Young person is optimistic about his or her personal future	72%	

MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT WWW.SOYREPORT.ORG

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