

Youth Priorities 2010-11

What young people in Marquette and Alger counties want you to know about their healthy development

More than 40 young people gathered at the Marquette/Alger Youth Asset Summit October 7, 2009 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 brainstormed ways to build the assets of greatest concern in their 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
- **Positive View of Personal Future** Asset 40: Young person is optimistic about his or her personal future

Areas of Concern

- **Community Values Youth** Asset 7: Young person perceives adults in community value youth
- **Integrity** Asset 28: Young person acts on convictions and stands up for his or her beliefs
- **Cultural Competence** Asset 34: Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds



Students at the 2009 Marquette/Alger Youth Asset Summit prioritize the assets they feel are the greatest strengths in the two-county area and those in most need of improvement.

What are the 40 Assets?

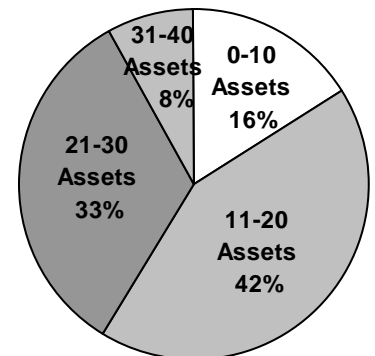
The 40 Developmental Assets are strengths or building blocks that kids need to grow up healthy, competent and caring. Research shows that youth with more assets experience greater success in life and participate in fewer risk-taking behaviors.

Youth need parents, schools and communities to:

- Show them they are valued
- Teach them to act on their convictions and stand up for their beliefs
- Help them learn about, and feel comfortable with, people of different backgrounds

2008 Marquette and Alger 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 41 percent of youth surveyed in Marquette and counties have 21 or more assets, and perhaps more concerning, 16 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 1,788 students in 8th, 10th & 12th grades in Marquette and Alger counties who were surveyed in 2008.

	Asset Type	Asset Name and Definition	%
External Assets	Support	1. Family support -- Family life provides high levels of love and support	72%
		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)	28%
		3. Other adult relationships -- Young person receives support from three or more nonparent adults	48%
		4. Caring neighborhood -- Young person experiences caring neighbors	40%
		5. Caring school climate -- School provides a caring, encouraging environment	30%
		6. Parent involvement in schooling -- Parent(s) are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school	32%
	Empowerment	7. Community values youth -- Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth	23%
		8. Youth as resources -- Young people are given useful roles in the community	27%
		9. Service to others -- Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week	49%
		10. Safety -- Young person feels safe at home, at school, and in the neighborhood	57%
	Boundaries & Expectations	11. Family boundaries -- Family has clear rules and consequences and monitors the young person's whereabouts	48%
		12. School boundaries -- School provides clear rules and consequences	54%
		13. Neighborhood boundaries -- Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people's behavior	51%
		14. Adult role models -- Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behavior	28%
		15. Positive peer influence -- Young person's best friends model responsible behavior	62%
		16. High expectations -- Both parent(s) and teachers encourage the young person to do well	48%
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	18%	
	18. Youth programs -- Young person spends three or more hours per week in sports, clubs, or organizations at school and/or in the community	62%	
	19. Religious community -- Young person spends one or more hours per week in activities in a religious institution	44%	
	20. Time at home -- Young person is out with friends "with nothing special to do" two or fewer nights per week	42%	
Internal Assets	Commitment to Learning	21. Achievement motivation -- Young person is motivated to do well in school	68%
		22. School engagement -- Young person is actively engaged in learning	65%
		23. Homework -- Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day	43%
		24. Bonding to school -- Young person cares about her or his school	53%
		25. Reading for pleasure -- Young person reads for pleasure three or more hours per week	29%
	Positive Values	26. Caring -- Young person places high value on helping other people	46%
		27. Equality and social justice -- Young person places high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty	47%
		28. Integrity -- Young person acts on convictions and stands up for her or his beliefs	69%
		29. Honesty -- Young person "tells the truth even when it is not easy"	68%
		30. Responsibility -- Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility	66%
		31. Restraint -- Young person believes it is important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs	39%
	Social Competencies	32. Planning and decision making -- Young person knows how to plan ahead and make choices	31%
		33. Interpersonal competence -- Young person has empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills	45%
		34. Cultural competence -- Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds	35%
35. Resistance skills -- Young person can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations		42%	
36. Peaceful conflict resolution -- Young person seeks to resolve conflict nonviolently		42%	
Positive Identity	37. Personal power -- Young person feels he or she has control over "things that happen to me"	48%	
	38. Self-esteem -- Young person reports having a high self-esteem	50%	
	39. Sense of purpose -- Young person reports that "my life has a purpose"	63%	
	40. Positive view of personal future -- Young person is optimistic about his or her personal future	75%	

MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT WWW.SOYREPORT.ORG

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