



40 Developmental Assets

October 28, 2008
OPHA Conference

Introduction to 40 Assets: A Story.



Outline

- Key messages
- What are developmental Assets?
- What does the research say?
- Shift in Thinking
- Inventory of Assets in Action
- Activity
- Resources

- **The true measure of a nation's standing is how well it attends to its children – their health and safety, their material security, their education and socialization, and their sense of being loved, valued, and included in the families and societies into which they are born.**

(UNICEF, Innocenti Research Centre, Report Card 7, 2007)

Key Messages

- Everyone can build assets
- All children need assets
- Relationships are key
- Asset-building is an ongoing process
- Consistent messages are important
- Intentional repetition is necessary



So

What are developmental assets??

The first four categories of assets focus on external structures, relationships and activities that create a positive environment for children and youth

- Support
- Empowerment
- Boundaries/Expectations
- Constructive Use of Time



The next four categories reflect internal values, skills and beliefs that children need to fully engage with and contribute to the world around them.

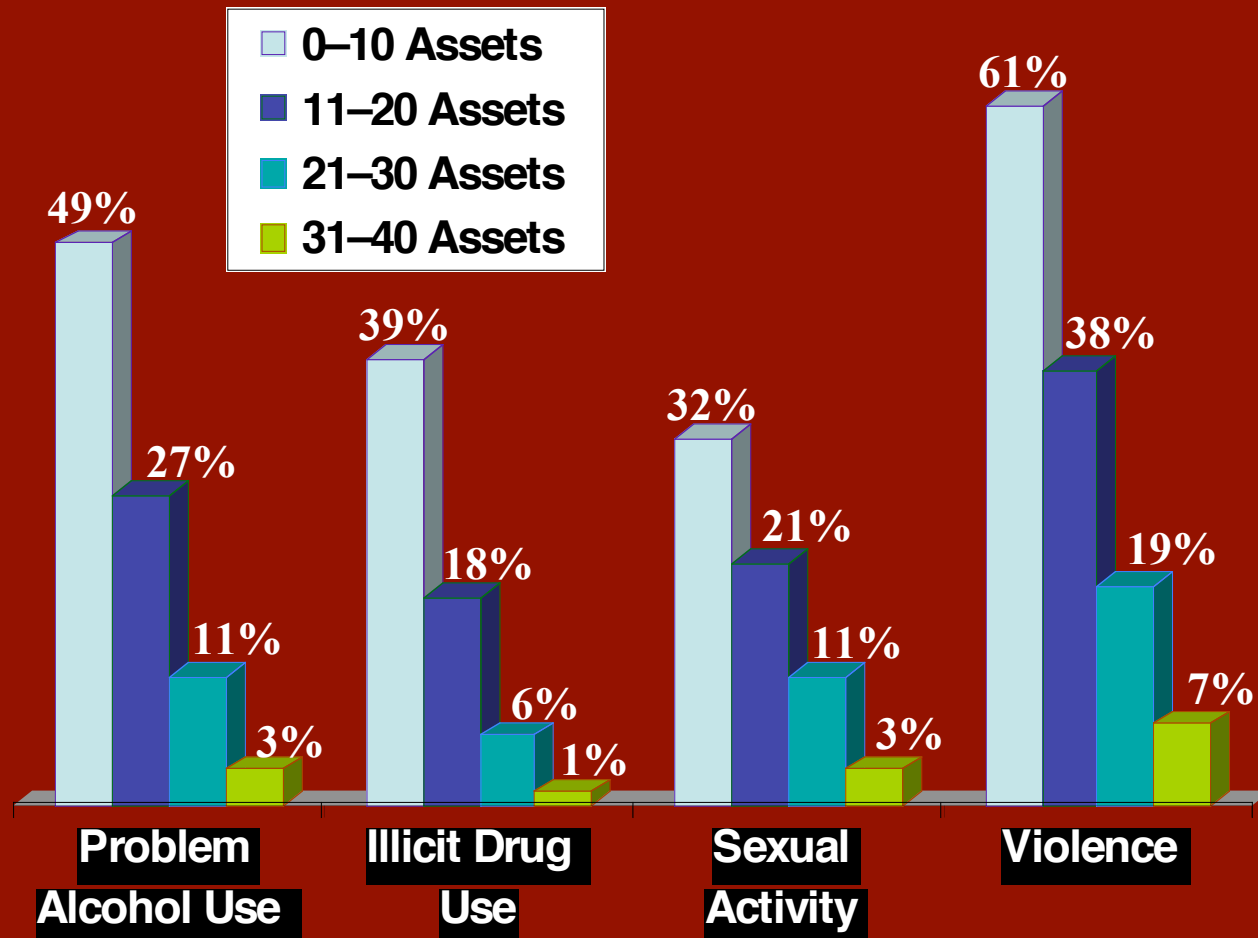
- Commitment to Learning
- Positive Values
- Social Competencies
- Positive Identity



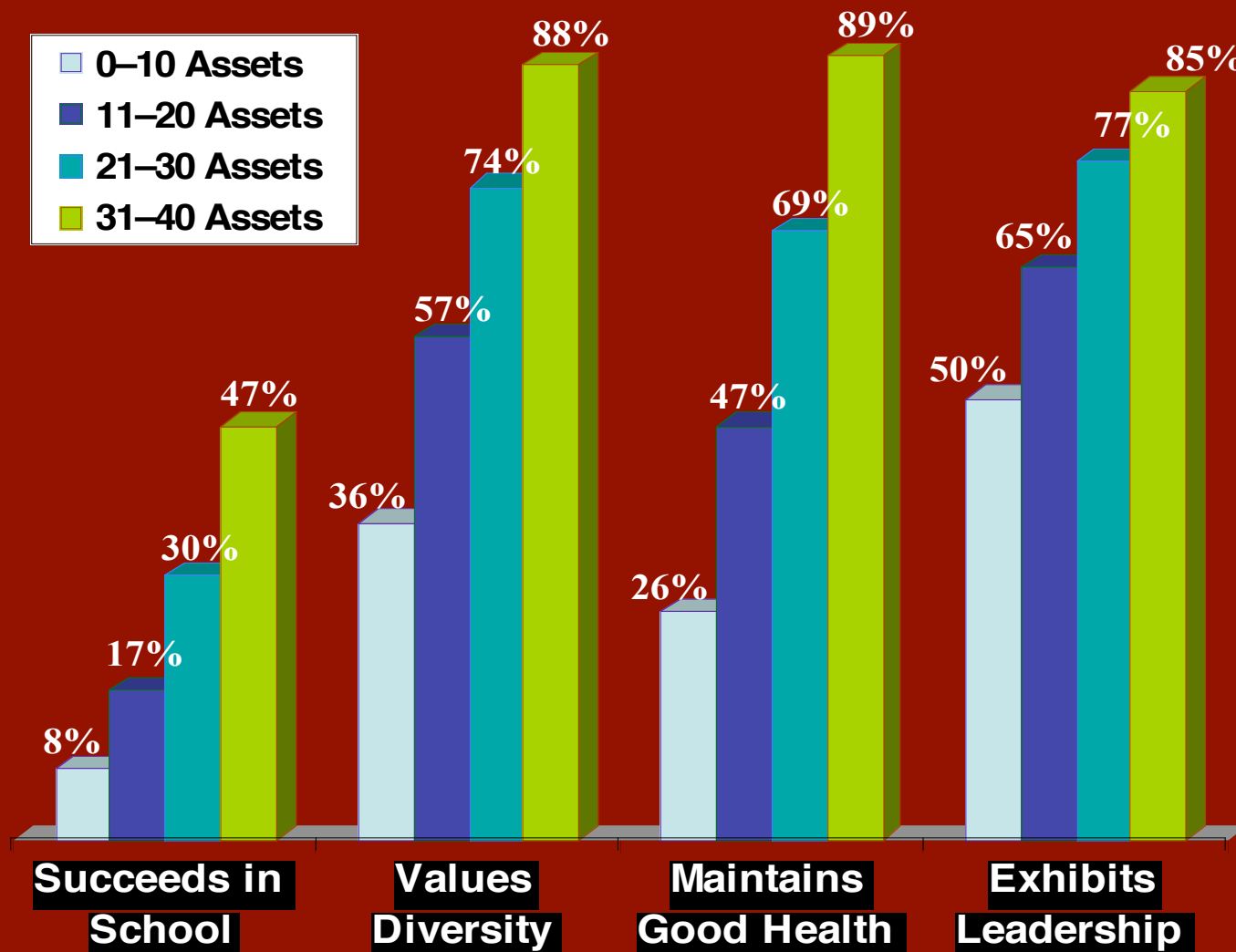
What does the research tell us??

Studies reveal strong and consistent relationships between the number of assets present in young people's lives and the degree to which they develop in positive and healthful ways.

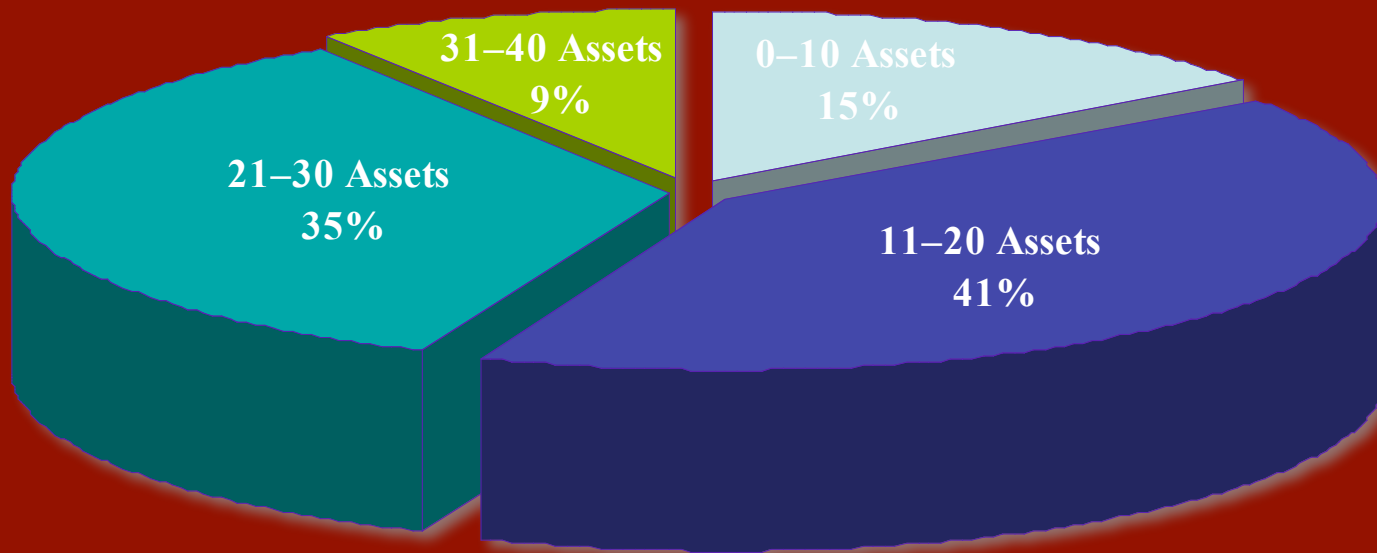
The Power of Assets to Protect



The Power of Assets to Promote



YET . . . Only 9% of youth reported having 31 or more assets!! AND more than half have 20 or fewer assets!



Shift in Thinking



FROM:

- Fixing young people's problems
- Professional's work
- Young people absorbing resources
- Programs
- Troubled youth
- Incidental asset-building
- Blaming others

TO:

- Promoting young people's strengths
- Everyone's work
- Young people as resources
- Relationships
- All young people
- Intentional asset-building
- Claiming responsibility

Assets in Action @ Niagara Region Public Health!!

- History of Asset-Building Initiatives @ PH
- Family Health Division
- Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention
- Clinical Services



History

- Attendance at a province-wide YMCA gathering with a speaker from the Search Institute
- Recognized as something we already do but now it had a name & framework
- Brought the philosophy to the school nurses who embraced it
- Spent a year learning & understanding the asset-building language & philosophy

History (cont'd)

- Expanded it to the rest of the Family Health Division
- A “40 Assets Advisory Committee” was formed
- Expanded to the whole health department
- The RNAO Best Practice Guideline project has a component focused on the 40 assets approach for Enhancing Healthy Adolescent Development
- Intranet (Sherpa) site devoted to 40 Developmental Assets

Family Health Division

- Reproductive Health:
 - 40 assets activity at most team meetings
 - 40 assets messaging in our parent resource guide
 - 40 assets education session to the Prenatal Network of Niagara (PNON)
 - Plans to incorporate the 40 assets into prenatal classes somehow, and link with other community members.
 - It has been a difficult challenge looking at 40 assets from a prenatal and preconception point of view. We plan to *up the ante* with our 40 asset work!!

Family Health Division (cont'd)

HBHC/Child Health

- Asset-building activities for staff at team meetings
- Incorporation of 40 Developmental Assets messaging throughout Parent Resource Guides (birth-12 months & 18months-3 years)
- Reference cards for Family Home Visitors to bring on home visits and talk about 40 Assets with families
- Staff training (“Everyone’s an Asset Builder”) & attendance at Search Institute’s 2007 conference
- HBHC 40 Assets Program Task Group was formed
- Community presentations (AFSSN, Rotary Club)
- Article in Physician’s Newsletter

Family Health (cont'd)

- School Health (Elementary)
 - Staff training (Everyone's an Asset Builder)
 - Updates at team meetings
 - Developed display board & pamphlets
 - Incorporated into 4 -13 year Parent Resource Guide
 - Information for parents in Daily Apple newsletter/ school newsletters
 - Presentation @ a 'lunch & learn' session

Family Health (cont'd)

- **School Health (Secondary)**

- Introduce a 40 Assets story and activity at each team meeting
- Have a display to take to meetings, schools and parent activities
- Bring information about 40 Assets & local activities to the attention of the school and parent councils
- Have completed, and are distributing Parent Resource Guide (14- 19 years) that includes 40 Assets as an underlying framework
- Distribute current 40 Assets information to staff
- Have included 2 Newsletter Articles on Asset Building for Parents in Principals' Packages
- Team received full day training on 40 Assets from Thrive Canada
- Advocating for 40 Assets inclusion at community coalitions, such as the Youth Violence Prevention Coalition with NRP

Family Health (cont'd)

- Infant & Child Development Services & Dental Programs:
 - Both of these programs have representation at departmental 40 Assets Advisory Committee
 - Dental program staff have been introduced to 40 Assets philosophy at team meeting

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

- Staff education at June/July team meetings
- Asset-building activities with teams
- Encouraged staff to add Asset-building as a performance objective on PA
- Creating a “top 10” list for division to post
- Plans for community initiative, and incorporation into annual divisional meeting
- Sherpa (intranet) site for RNAO BPG: Enhancing Healthy Adolescent Development which includes:
 - Discussion board for staff to post asset-building ideas
 - Information on Youth engagement/development
 - Resources/links related to 40 Assets

Clinical Services

- Vaccine Preventable Disease program:
 - Hope to have student ‘champions’ for the teen booster via student councils
 - Intentional positive feedback to students and showing interest during clinics
 - Encourage student volunteers to escort other students to and from clinics
 - Intentional positive feedback to principals & teachers
 - Representation at PH Departmental 40 Assets committee

Activity!!!!

Let's think about asset-building.



For more information:

- www.beagreatparent.ca
- www.mvparents.com
- www.thrivecanada.ca
- www.search-institute.org
- Visit your local Ontario Early Years Centres, YMCAs, and libraries
- Call the Parent Talk Information Line (905) 688-8248, ext. 7555