



East Haddam
Youth & Family Services, Inc.

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A Report to the Community: What's going on with our kids?



Dear Neighbors,

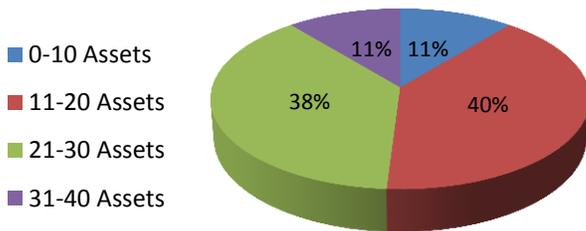
In October, 2012, East Haddam Youth & Family Services, Nathan Hale Ray Middle and High Schools administered the Search Institute's "Profiles of Student Life" survey to students, grades 7 through 12. The survey is designed to assess young people's external supports, internal strengths and high-risk behaviors. For several years, it has helped us to better understand the youth voice in our community by answering questions about resistance skills, boundaries and expectations, structured time use, and behaviors. It is based on the framework of *Forty Developmental Assets* which are the positive experiences, relationships, opportunities and personal qualities that young people need to thrive. The framework is grounded in research on child and adolescent development, risk prevention and resiliency. Surveys of more than one million youth in communities across the United States consistently show that *young people who experience more of these assets in their lives are more likely to make healthy choices and avoid high-risk behaviors.*

In this report, we have included results from our 2012 survey that focuses on our youth's internal and external assets and their reported use of alcohol and marijuana. We have also included comparative data from a previous survey administered in 2010. Clearly, we have made significant gains with regard to youth substance use. But, even though we are moving in the right direction, this report still reflects concerns about our children that challenge us to continue and expand our work. While our youth are reporting decreases in their use of alcohol and marijuana, they continue to be involved in these behaviors. And, their reported experience of assets in their lives has decreased since 2010 raising concern about the potential for a rise in alcohol and drug use (or other high-risk behaviors) if this downward trend continues.

The "Profiles of Student Life" survey and this report offer us important insights about our young people. They provide information about some of the challenges our youth face and the internal strengths and external supports they have to overcome those challenges. As you review this information, consider the progress that has been made as well as the work still to be done. Recognize the effort that is being made every day to create positive experiences, relationships and opportunities for our youth – in our homes, our schools, our congregations, and our community. Think about yourself and how you can become involved in the important work of building a community where all of our young people are strong, safe and substance-free. Everyone has a role to play.

Toni McCabe, Executive Director
East Haddam Youth & Family Services

The Asset Challenge Facing East Haddam



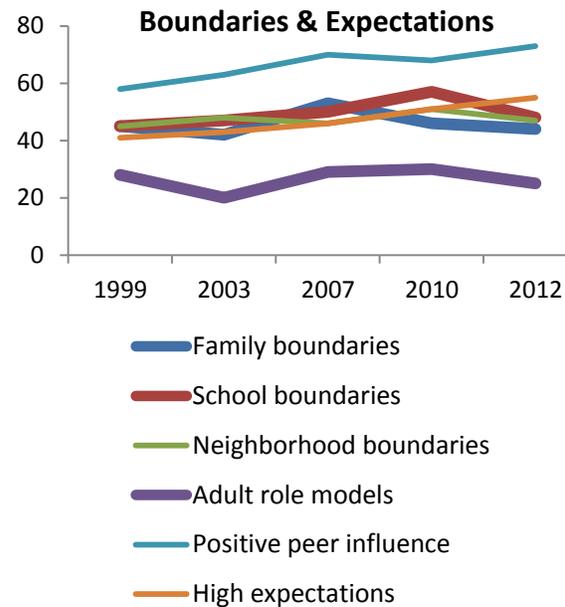
This report and the Developmental Assets Initiative is funded with the support of Middlesex United Way



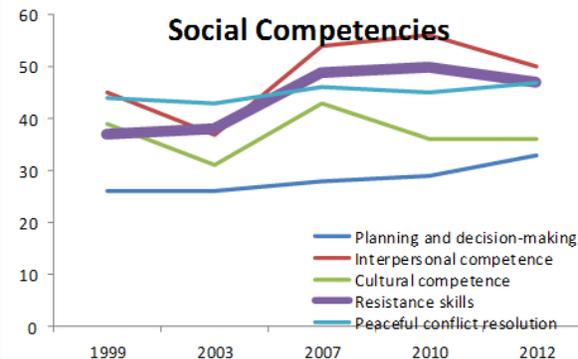
It is clear to us that families are a key source of Developmental Assets. Parents matter. The boundaries and expectations they set, the love and support they give, the guidance they offer, the example they provide and the opportunities they present for their children to experience positive connections to their school and community make a significant difference in the lives of their children. , elected officials, religious

congregations, schools, other adults, agencies, law enforcement and other community-based groups support the efforts of parents by coming together and joining them in modeling appropriate behavior, presenting consistent messages, respecting the talents and insights that youth can offer, providing opportunities for youth involvement and supporting all of our community's children and youth.

External Assets: Positive Experiences Surrounding Youth			
Category	Asset	Response Rates	
		2010	2012
Support	Family support	74	69
	Positive family communication	32	33
	Other adult relationships	55	57
	Caring neighborhood	46	41
	Caring school climate	35	34
	Parent involvement in schooling	32	31
	Empowerment	Community values youth	26
	Youth as resources	32	30
	Service to others	53	54
	Safety	55	51
Boundaries and Expectations	Family boundaries	46	44
	School boundaries	57	48
	Neighborhood boundaries	51	47
	Adult role models	30	25
	Positive peer influence	68	73
	High expectations	51	55
Constructive Use of Time	Creative activities	23	21
	Youth programs	65	69
	Religious community	34	31
	Time at home	73	67

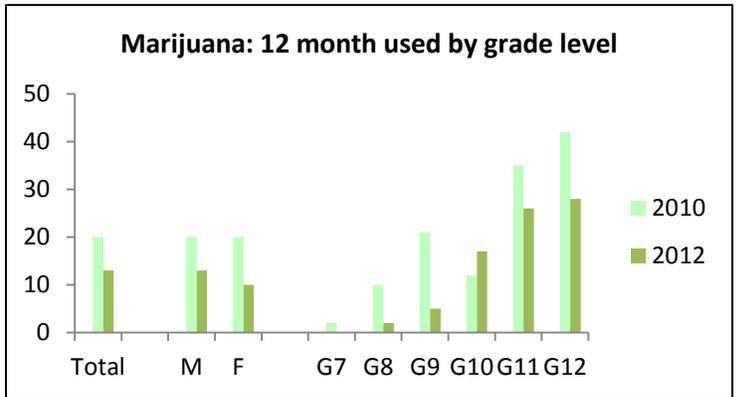
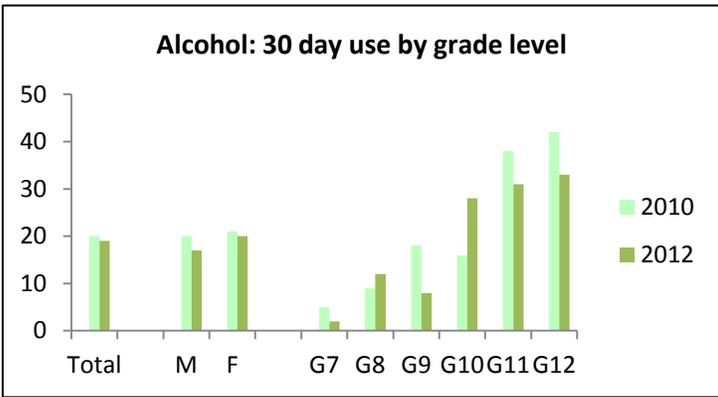


Internal Assets: Qualities that Families and Communities Nurture within Youth				
Category	Asset	Response Rates		
		2010	2012	
Commitment to Learning	Achievement motivation	74	78	
	School engagement	63	62	
	Homework	60	58	
	Bonding to school	60	64	
	Reading for pleasure	26	24	
	Positive Values	Caring	51	50
	Equality and social justice	55	52	
Integrity	75	72		
Honesty	66	67		
Responsibility	65	67		
Restraint	48	47		
Social Competencies	Planning and decision-making	29	33	
	Interpersonal competence	56	50	
	Cultural competence	36	36	
	Resistance skills	50	47	
	Peaceful conflict resolution	45	47	
Positive Identity	Personal power	47	43	
	Self-esteem	51	50	
	Sense of purpose	65	64	
	Positive view of personal future	75	73	



Asset-building is a catalyst for connecting and empowering all sectors of our community in a shared commitment to providing meaningful experiences, opportunities, skills and relationships that benefit all of our children and youth.

A Comparison Between 2010 and 2012 of East Haddam Youth in Grades 7-12 Reporting Substance Use			
Category	Behavior	Total Sample	
		2010	2012
Alcohol	Used alcohol once or more in the last 30 days	20	19
Tobacco	Smoked cigarettes once or more in the last 30 days	10	8
Marijuana	Used marijuana once or more in the last 30 days	13	13
Inhalants	Sniffed or inhaled substances to get high once or more in the last 12 months	5	6
Other Drug Used	Used illicit drugs once or more in the last 12 months	3	4
Driving and Alcohol	Rode with driver who had been drinking in the last 12 months	31	36
Driving and Alcohol	Drove after drinking once or more in the last 12 months	4	7



2012 Percentages for Youth Perception of Risk and Parental Disapproval of Substance Use			
Substance	Past 30 Day Use	Perception of Risk	Perception of Parental Disapproval
Alcohol: 30 day use	19	82	93
Marijuana: 30 day use	13	67	90

