

The 40 Developmental Assets were assessed in June 2005 using the survey *Me and My World*. Of the children surveyed in our community, 64% report that they experience the asset Safety.

Asset #10: Safety—Young person feels safe at home, at school, and in the neighborhood.

Consider this . . .

Youth in general do not feel particularly safe (51 percent of high school students experience this asset), but some feel even less safe than others. Females and younger youth are less likely to report feeling safe.

Try this . . .

Adults:

- Do an informal survey of youth. Ask them what things make them feel unsafe and what it would take for them to feel safer.
- Recognize that there is a difference between feeling safe and actually being safe. Talk with young people about your and their perceptions of what's safe and what isn't.
- When you set boundaries for young people that are based on safety, explain your reasons.
- If you work with children or youth, know your responsibilities regarding reporting suspected abuse. Make it clear to young people that you will do what you can to help if they talk to you about safety concerns.
- Take steps to make your home safe (remove or securely lock guns, poisons, and power tools); have a fire safety plan; and so on).

Youth:

- Work with your family to assess and improve the safety of your home (check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, help make a fire escape plan, and so on).
- Start or join a peer mediation program in your school. These types of programs focus on students helping other students resolve their disputes without violence.
- Develop friendships with people who you think make safe and healthy choices (such as not drinking alcohol or using other drugs).

From *Get the Word Out: Communication Tools and Ideas for Asset Builders Everywhere*.

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