



Developmental Assets: A Framework for Positive Development and Delaying Sexual Initiation

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The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars' Environmental
Change and Security Program and Global Health Initiative

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Discovering What Kids Need to Succeed

Our Vision

To create a world where all young people are valued and thrive.

Our Mission

To provide catalytic leadership, breakthrough knowledge, and innovative resources to advance the health of children, youth, families, and communities.

Our Focus Areas

Families • Schools • Communities

40 Developmental Assets

- Extensive research
- Flexible and adaptable
- Practical, actionable
- Impact across priorities
- Relevant across . . .
 - Populations
 - Sectors and contexts
 - Ideologies
 - Cultures



Categories of Developmental Assets

External



Support



Empowerment



Boundaries & Expectations



Constructive Use of Time

Internal



Commitment to Learning



Positive Values



Social Competencies



Positive Identity

The complete framework of 40 assets is available at
www.search-institute.org/developmental-assets/lists

Assets: Developmental Infrastructure



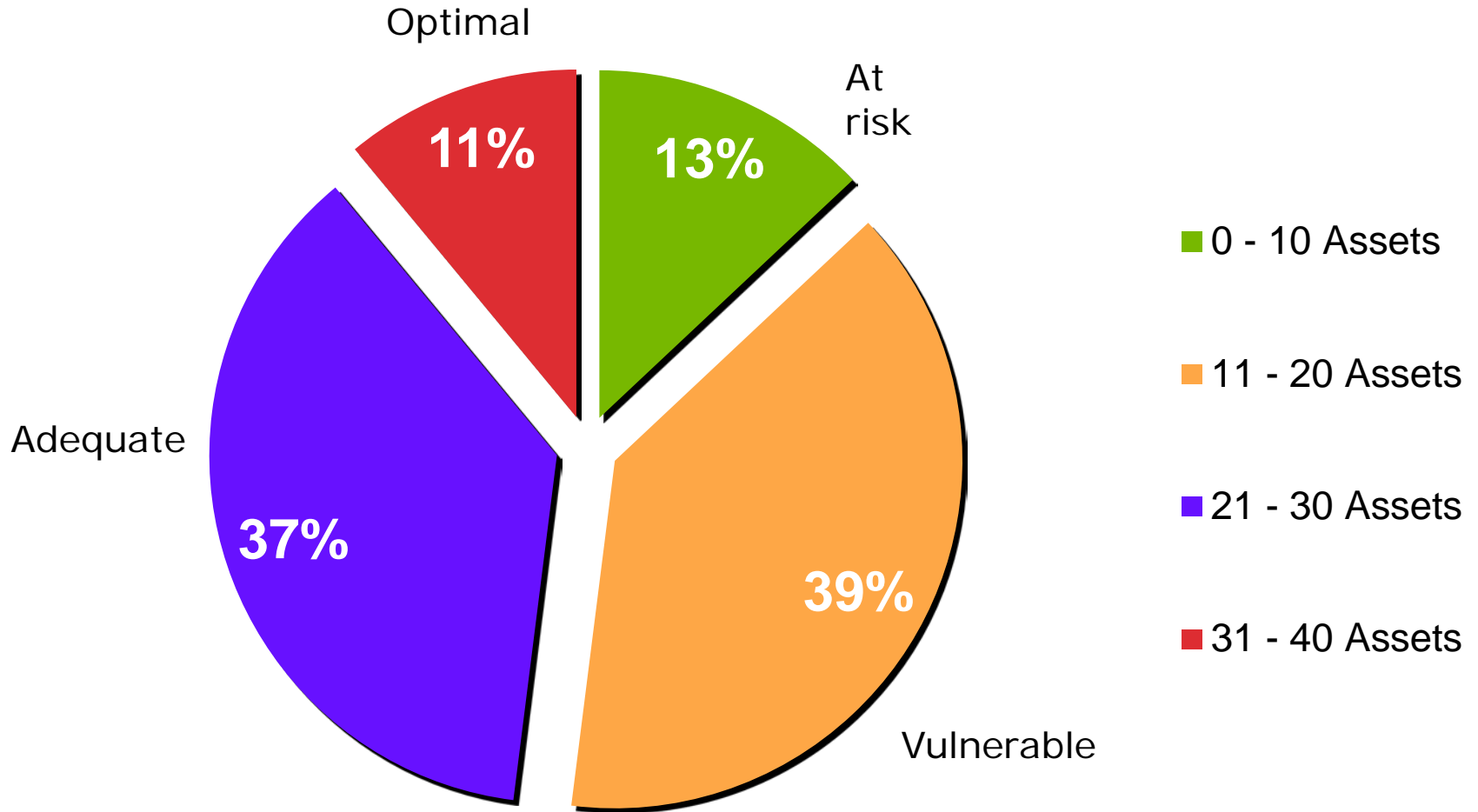
Political &
Economic
Infrastructure

Health &
Service
Infrastructure

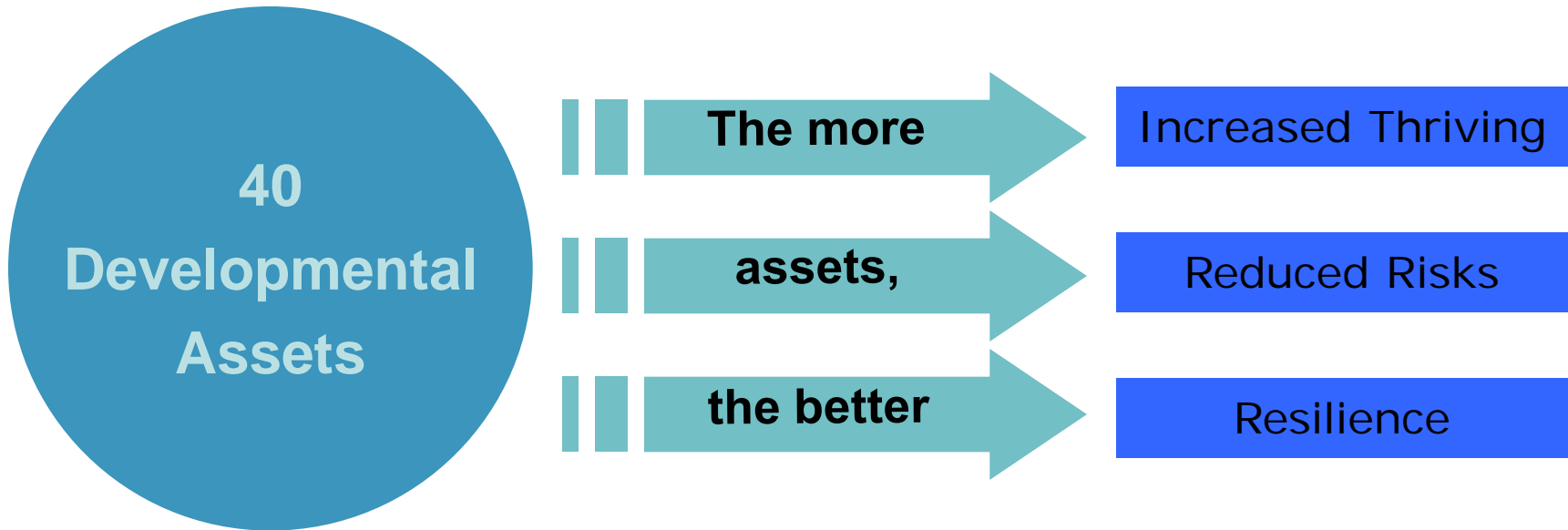
Civic &
Educational
Infrastructure

Developmental
Infrastructure

State of Assets (Grades 6-12)



Why Assets Matter

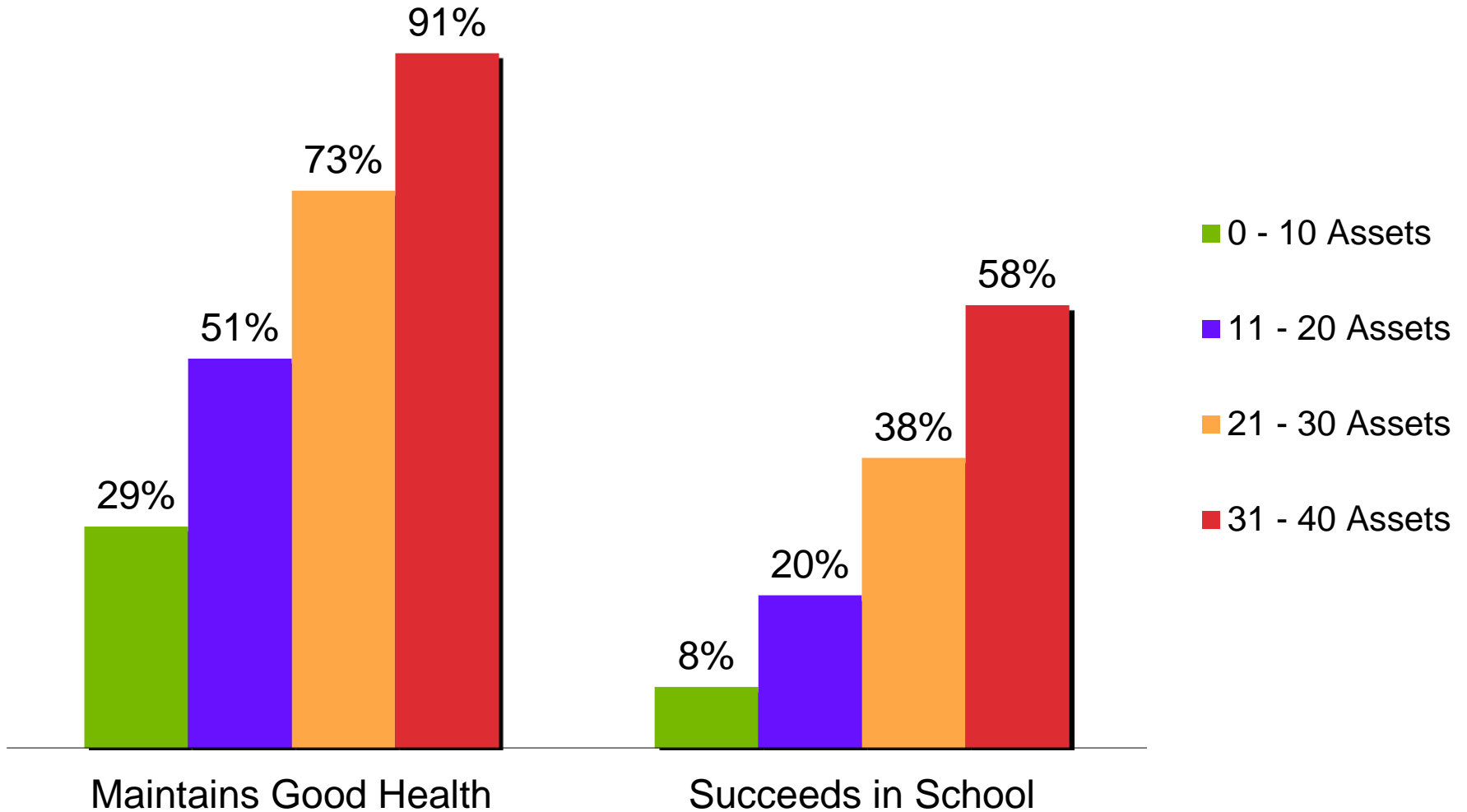


U. S.: True
across . . .

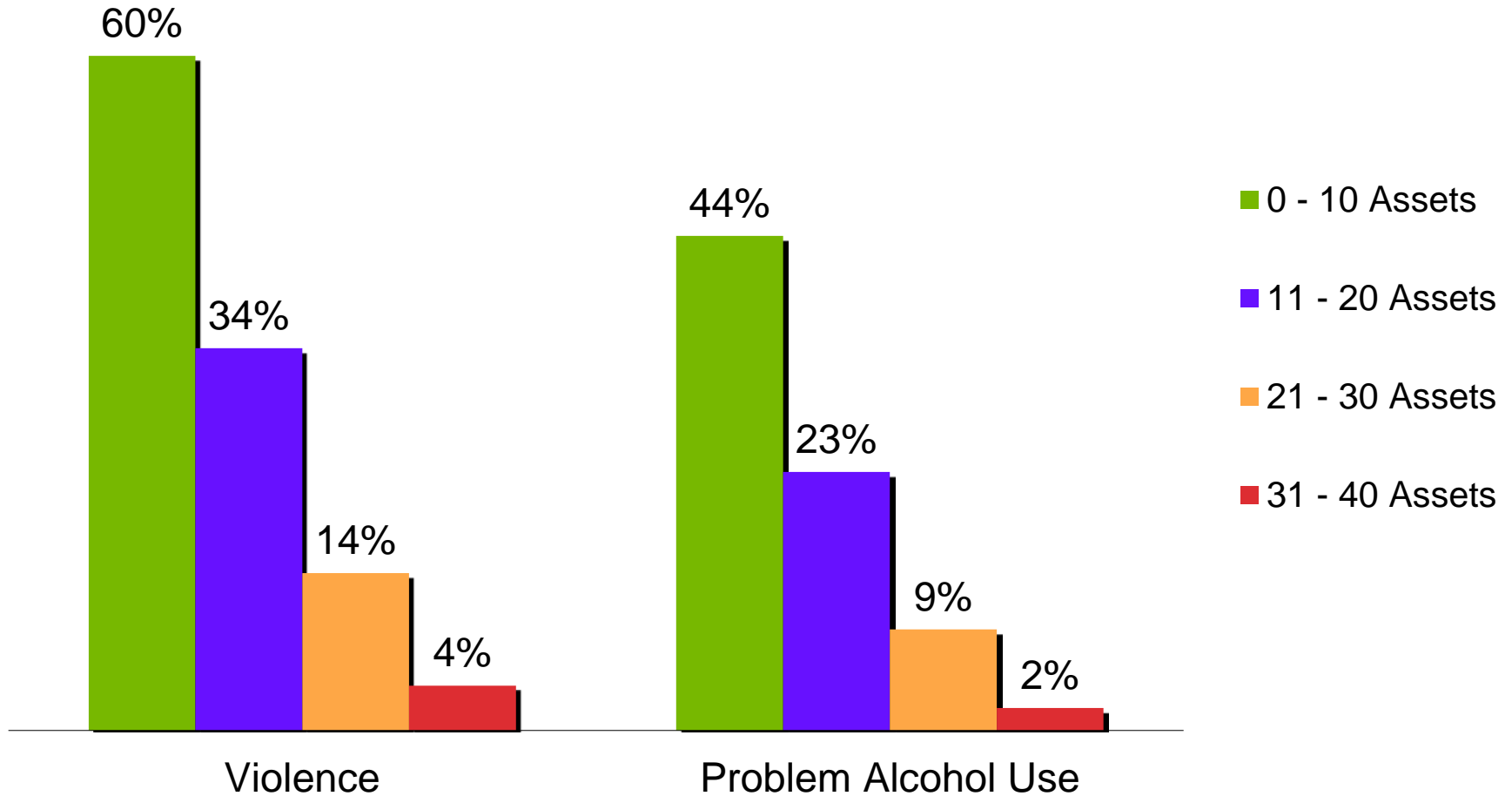
- Socioeconomic status
- Race/ethnicity

- Family composition
- Gender

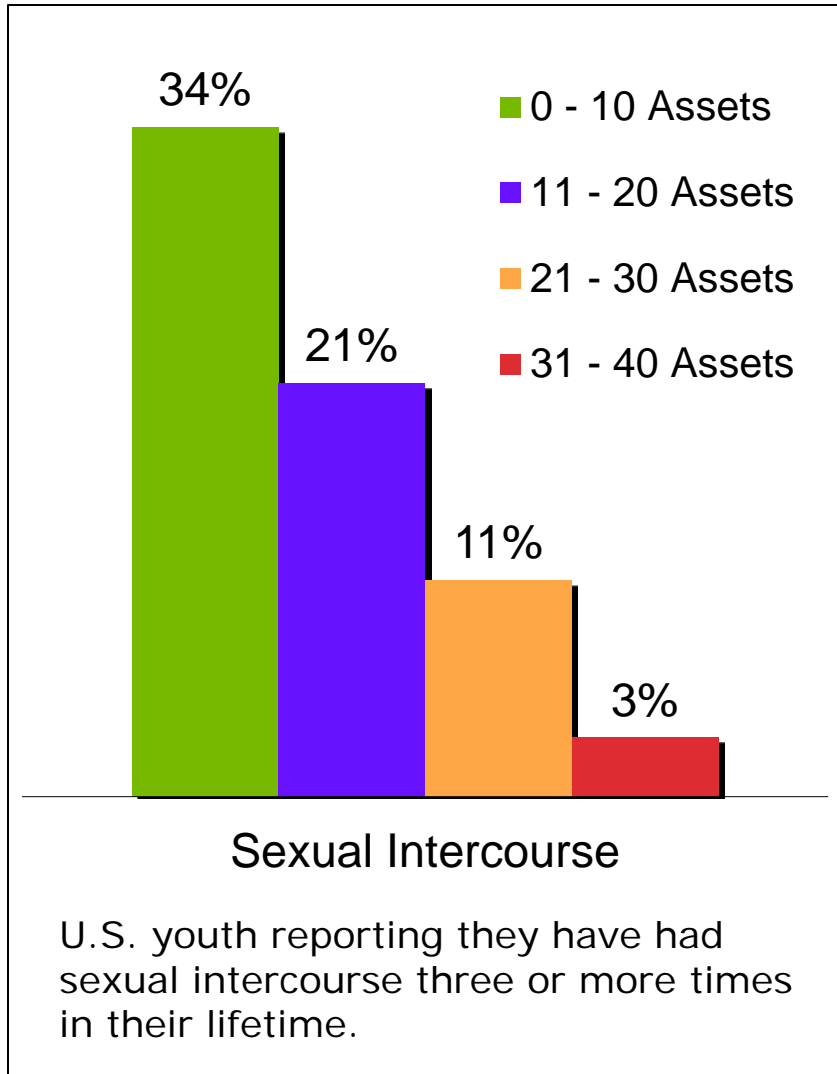
Increased Thriving (2010 U.S. Data)



Reduced Risks (2010 U. S. Data)



Assets and Sexual Activity



- Demographics* explain 14% of variance
- Three assets explain 19% of variance:
 - Restraint (17%)
 - Positive Peer Influence (1%)
 - Time at Home (1%)
- Youth with high levels of assets are 6-7 times less likely to report ever having sexual intercourse than youth with average levels

* Gender, grade, race/ethnicity, family composition, and mother's education

Developmental Assets in International Development



Purpose

- Document link between assets and key international development outcomes

Collaborators

- USAID, Education Development Center, Save the Children

Instrument

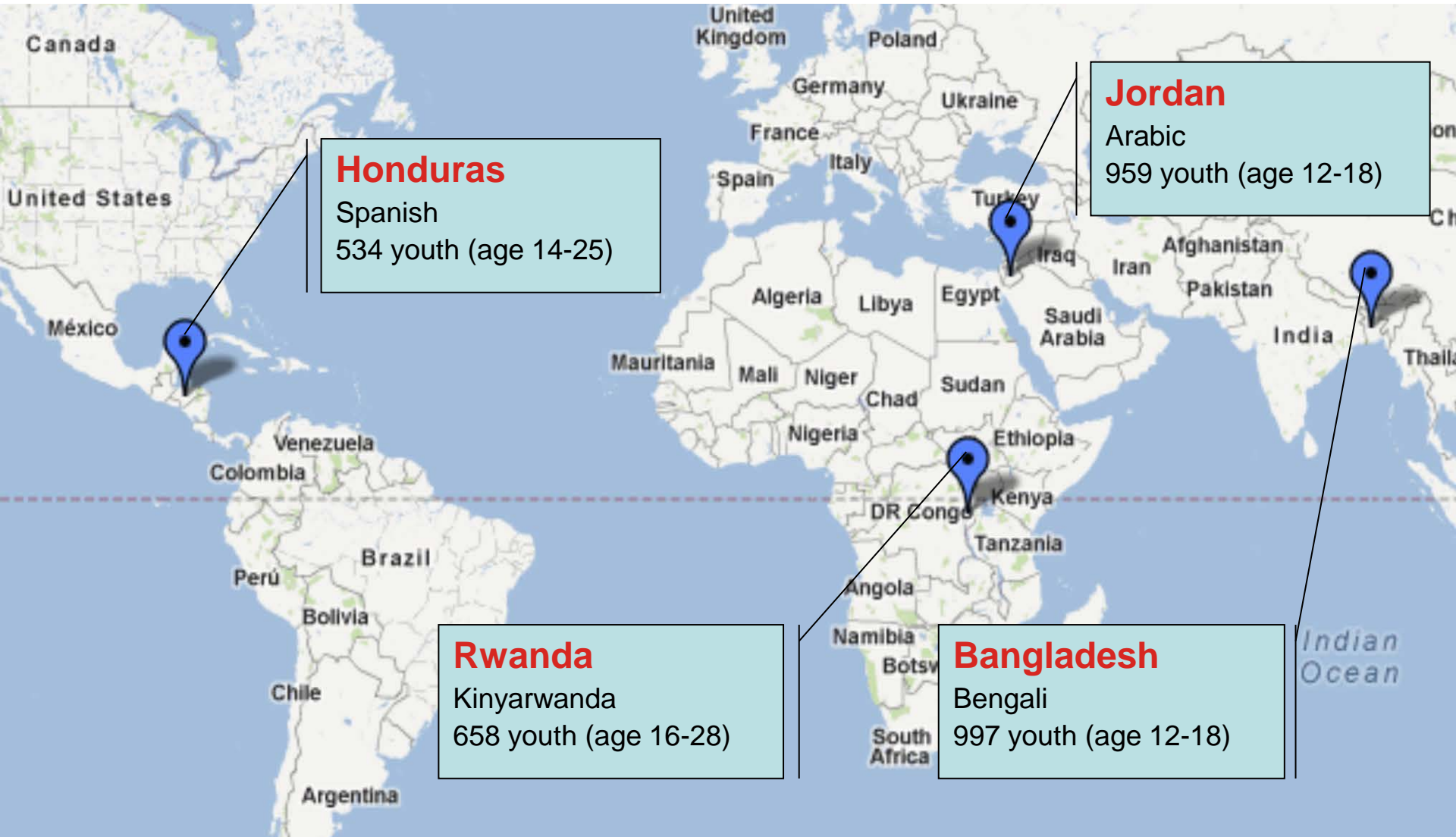
- Developmental Assets Profile
- New self-report measures

Produced under the EQUIP3 Leader Agreement No. GDGRAR00R03R000100R00

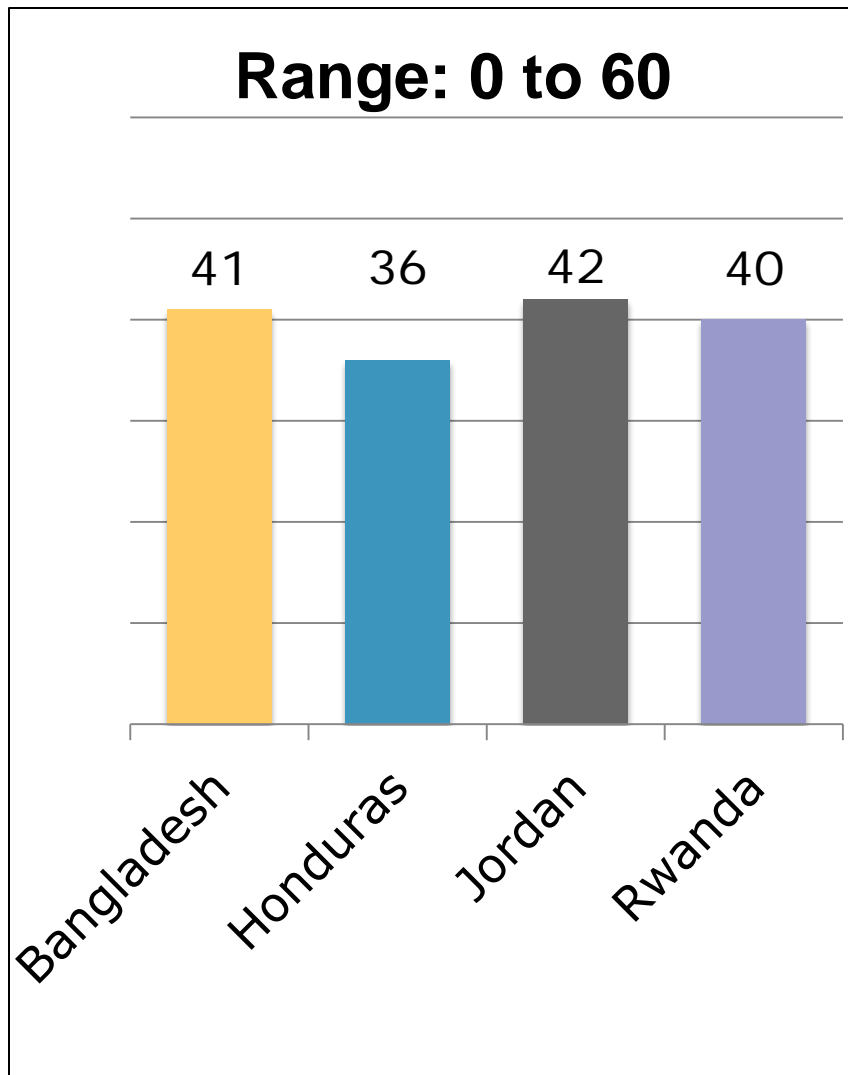
Made possible by the generous support the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Report available via email. Contact gener@search-institute.org

Study Sample



Experiences of Assets



Few demographic differences within countries on total DAP score:

- Age
- Gender
- City/village

Message: Evidence of consistency in overall experiences of assets across contexts

International Development Priorities



1. Workforce/Livelihoods
Development



2. Violence Prevention

3. Health

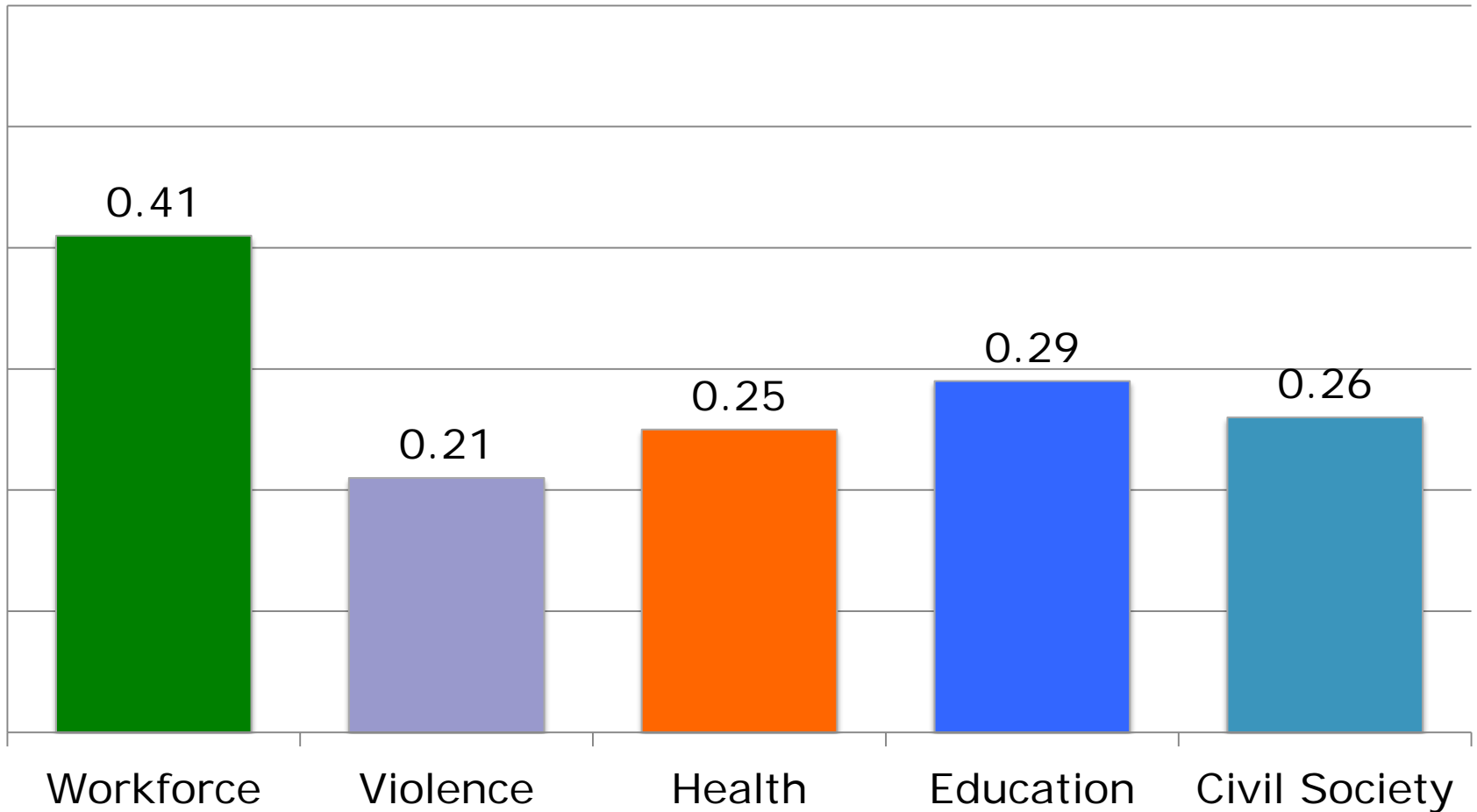
4. Education

5. Civil Society

- HIV knowledge
- Sanitation practices (hand-washing)
- Access to medical care
- [Sexual activity]



Correlation with Total DAP Scores



Takeaways

- Developmental Assets appear to be relevant across individual differences (age, gender) and multiple contexts, cultures, and situations.
- Assets are correlated with key priorities, including sexual behaviors, though deeper, broader research is needed.
- An asset-based approach holds promise across sectoral priorities, including delaying sexual initiation.
- Building assets calls for engaging families, schools, communities in intentional positive development.

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