Positive Youth Development

Origins, Research and Concepts

Prevention Research:

What predicts and prevents poor health outcomes?

Risk Factors: **Community**

Risk Factors: **Community**	Substance Abuse	Delinquency	Teen Pregnancy	School Drop-out	Violence
Availability of Drugs	X				X
Availability of Firearms		X			X
Community Laws and Norms Favorable Toward Drug Use, Firearms, and Crime	X	X			X
Media Portrayals of Violence	X				X
Transitions and Mobility	X	X			
Low Neighborhood Attachment and Community Disorganization	X	X			X
Extreme Economic Deprivation	X	X	X	X	X

Resiliency Research:

What explains success despite the odds?

Results of Resiliency Research

INDIVIDUAL TRAITS

- Social Competence
- Problem Solving Skills
- Autonomy
- Sense of Purpose, Belief in a Bright Future

ENVIRONMENTAL TRAITS

- Caring Relationships
- High Expectations
- Opportunities for Participation

Youth Development Research:

What predicts
and promotes thriving?

Search Institute's
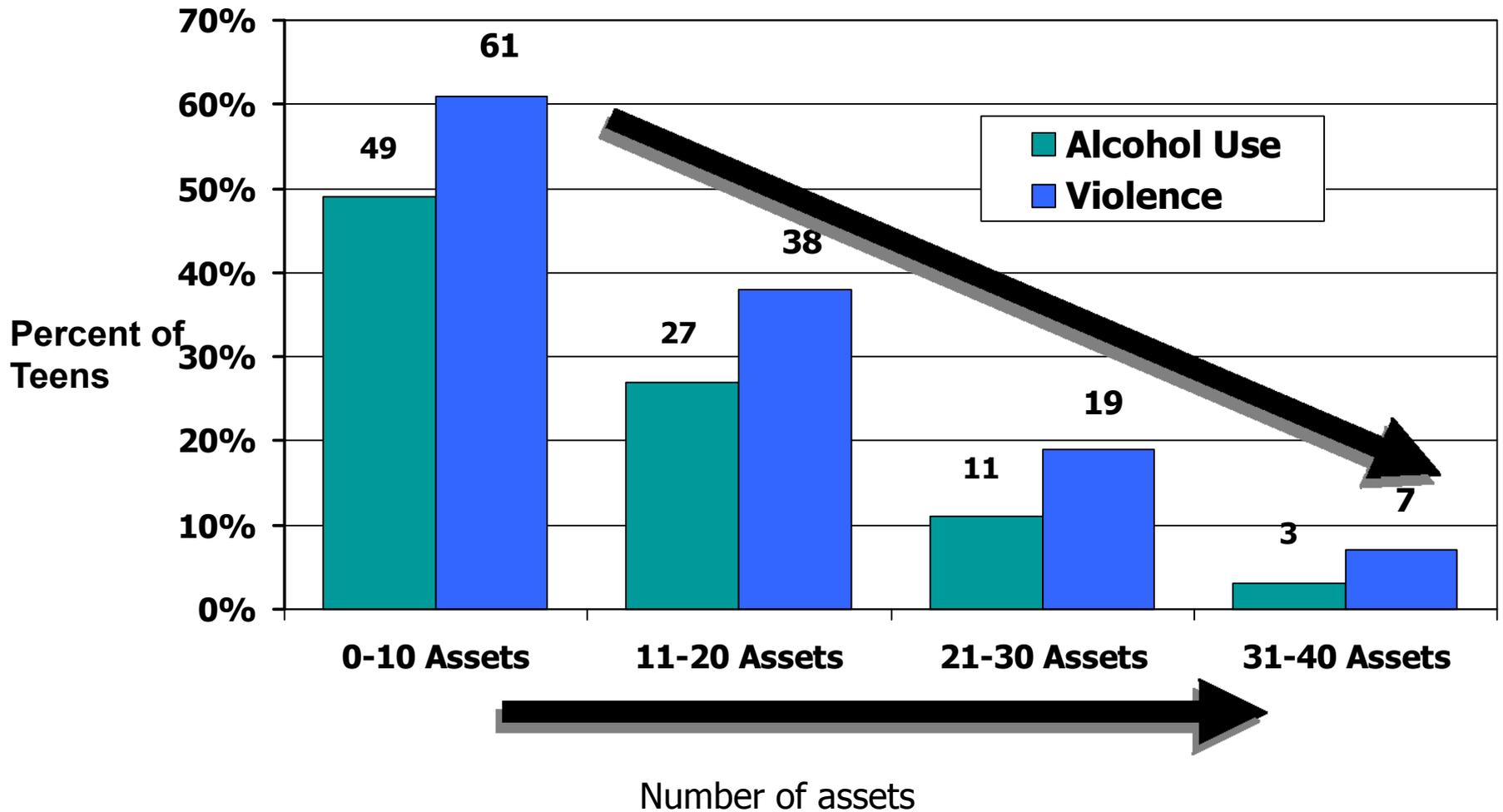# The Origin of "Assets"

External Assets

- Support
- Empowerment
- Boundaries and Expectations
- Constructive Use of Time
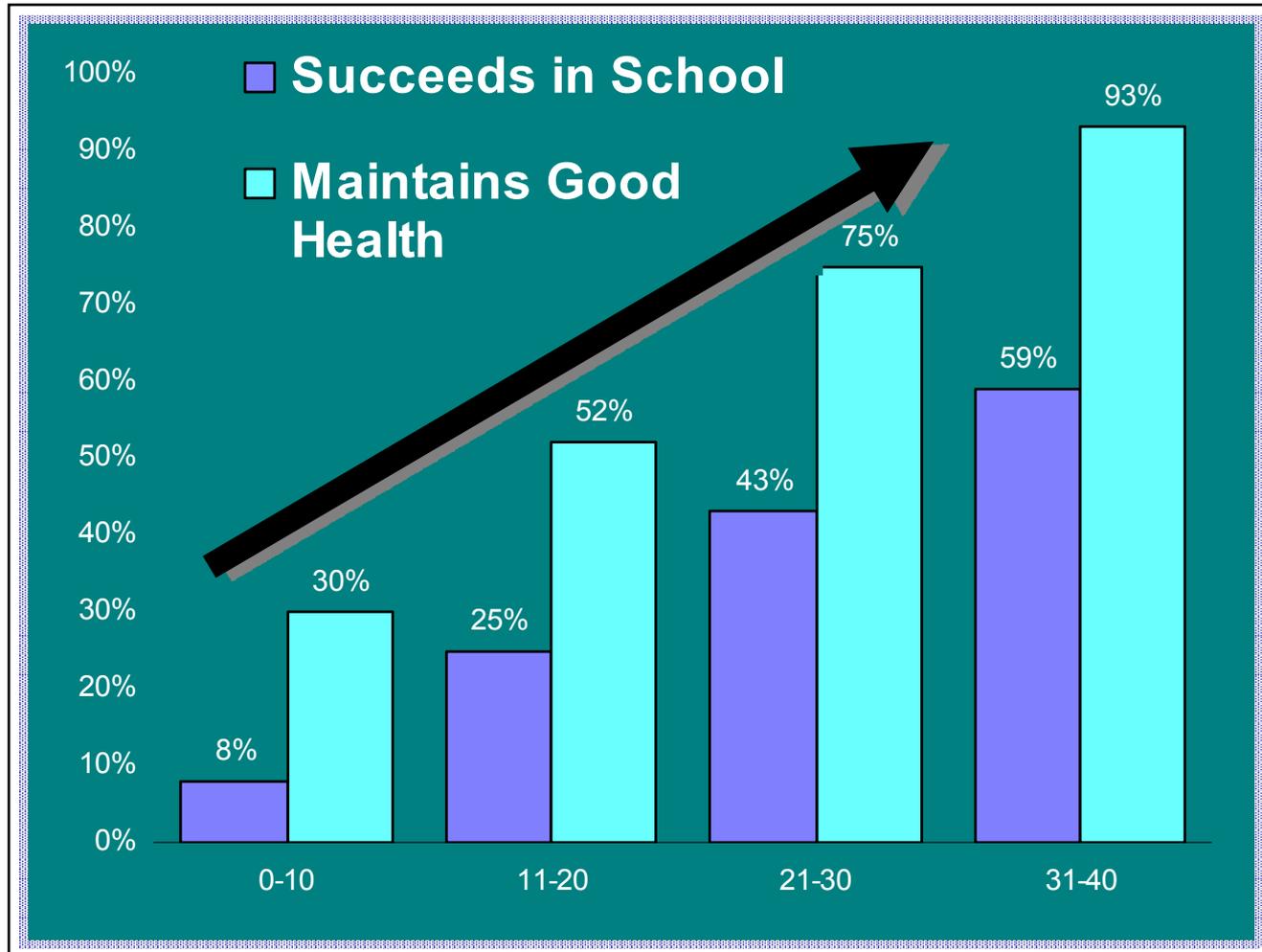
Internal Assets

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

Relationship of Assets to Negative Outcomes

Thriving Indicators by Asset Level

Risk and Protective Factors at Work

Risk
Factors

Protective
Factors

Positive
Outcomes

National Research Council (2002)

Features of Positive Developmental Settings

Physical and Psychological Safety

Appropriate Structures

Supportive Relationships

Opportunities to Belong

Positive Social Norms

Support for Efficacy and Mattering

Opportunities for Skill Building

Integration of Family, School and Community Efforts

"Problem free is not fully prepared.

Fully prepared is not fully engaged."

Karen Pittman

What is Positive Youth Development?

A philosophy or approach

that guides communities in the

way they organize programs

and supports so that young people

can develop to their full potential!

Key Principles of Youth Development

- Positive Outcomes

- Youth Voice

- Strategies Aim To Involve All Youth

- Long Term Involvement

- Community Involvement

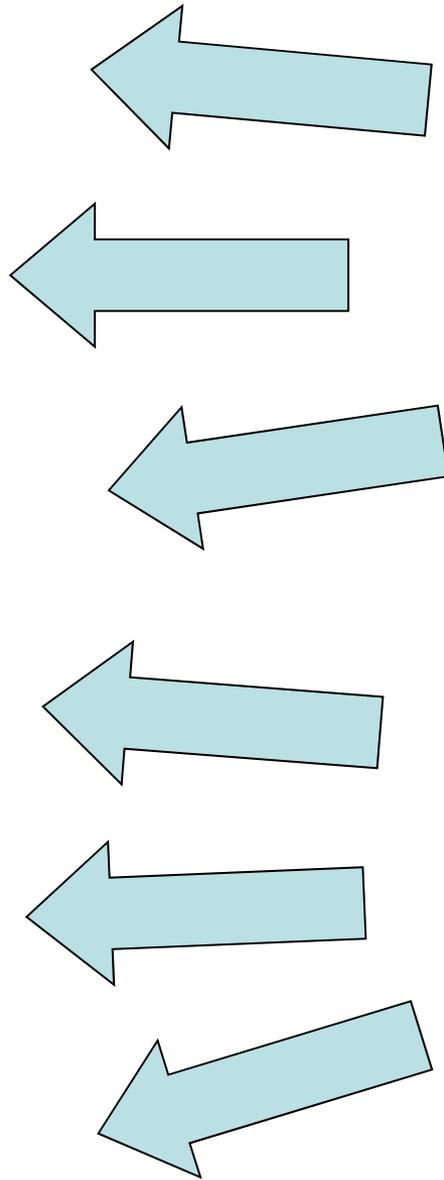- Focus On Collaboration

Shared Leadership

Participation

Preparation

Prevention

Intervention

Crisis

Positive Youth Development

Traditional Approach

Adapted from Karen Pittman