

# Pandemic Takes a Toll on Buffalo County Youth

## Developmental Assets Profile

In a 2021 survey, adolescents in Buffalo County evaluated the social and emotional strengths and supports that translate into developmental assets. Young people with more developmental assets — those categorized as “Adequate” or “Thriving” — generally make better choices when it comes to school, their health, and their contributions to community life.

### Detailed Analysis of Asset Categories

#### Family Support Continues as Strongest Asset

PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH RATED AS ADEQUATE OR THRIVING IN EACH ASSET CATEGORY

2016	2018	2021
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PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH RATED AS CHALLENGED OR VULNERABLE IN EACH ASSET CATEGORY

2016	2018	2021
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#### Personal



- Honesty
- Planning and decision making
- Restraint
- A sense of purpose

46%

39%

54%

61%

#### Social



- Peaceful conflict resolution
- Positive peer influence
- Interpersonal competence
- Other adult relationships

58%

42%

42%

58%

#### Family



- Family support
- Positive family communication
- Useful roles in the family
- Family boundaries

70%

63%

30%

37%

#### School



- Achievement motivation
- School engagement
- Caring school climate
- School boundaries

54%

42%

46%

58%

#### Community



- Community values youth
- Youth programs
- Religious community
- Caring neighborhood

54%

42%

52%

61%

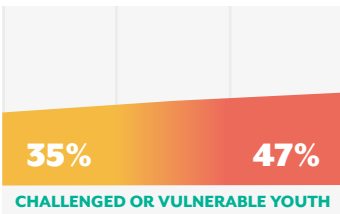
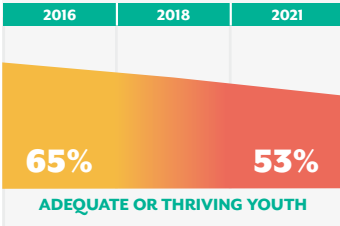


## External Assets

Relationships and opportunities provided through families, schools, and communities  
**Majority of Youth Still Perceive Adequate Community Support in Most Categories**

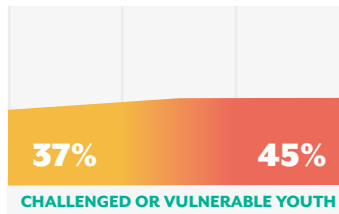
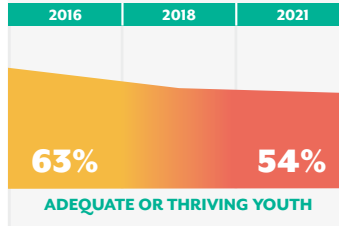
### Support

Young people need to be surrounded by people who love, care for, appreciate, and accept them.



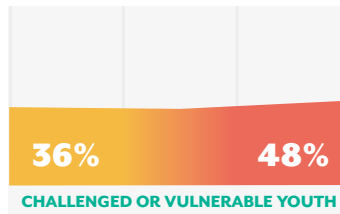
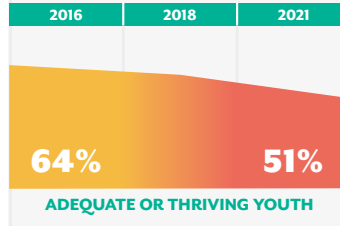
### Empowerment

Young people need to feel valued and valuable. This happens when youth feel safe and respected.



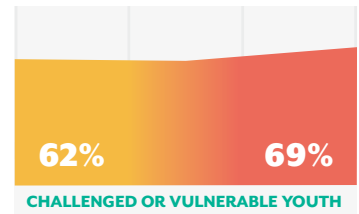
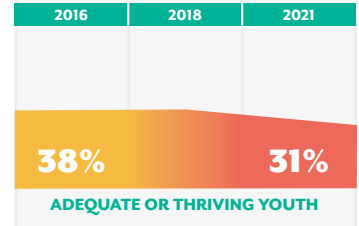
### Boundaries and Expectations

Young people need clear rules, consistent consequences for breaking rules, and encouragement to do their best.



### Constructive Use of Time

Young people need opportunities – outside of school – to learn and develop new skills and interests with other youth and adults.



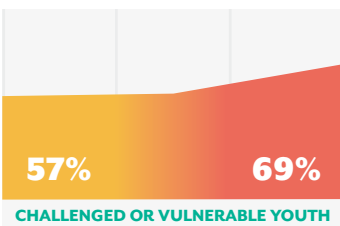
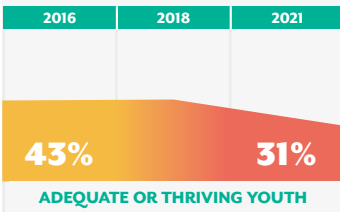
## Internal Assets

Values, commitments, skills, and self-perceptions that help young people develop self-regulation, internal motivation, and personal character

**Share of Challenged or Vulnerable Youth Has Increased in All Asset Categories Since 2016**

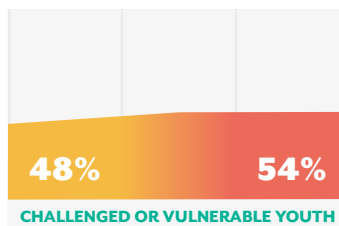
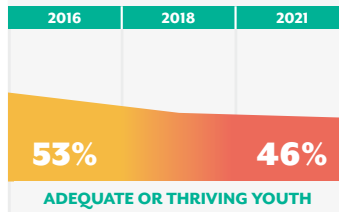
### Commitment to Learning

Young people need a sense of the lasting importance of learning and a belief in their own abilities.



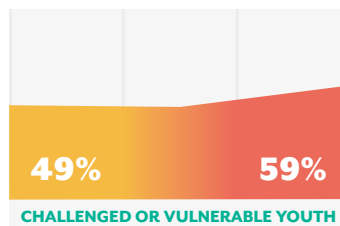
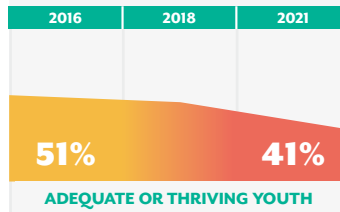
### Positive Values

Young people need to develop strong guiding values or principles to help them make healthy life choices.



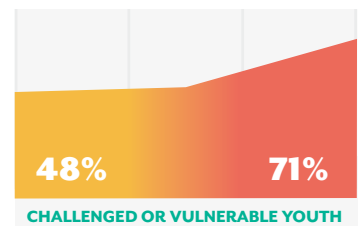
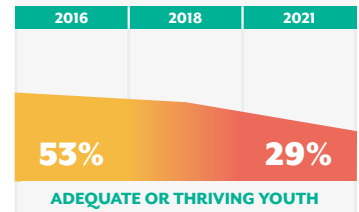
### Social Competencies

Young people need the skills to interact effectively with others, to make difficult decisions, and to cope with new situations.



### Positive Identity

Young people need to believe in their own self-worth and to feel they have control over the things that happen to them.



If you would like access to the full document or are a youth serving organization:

[DOWNLOAD THE FULL REPORT](#)



### RESEARCH METHODS

Every two to three years, Buffalo County Community Partners collaborates with the Search Institute to survey youth's perceptions of their social and emotional well-being. Using a proprietary methodology, the Search Institute converts responses into a set of indicators that measure the attitudes and skills (internal assets) and community-based supports (external assets) young people need to make positive life choices. This summary compares the results for the [2016](#) (225 total surveyed, 208 surveys included in report), [2018](#) (384 total surveyed, 373 surveys included in report), and [2021](#) (250 total surveyed, 236 surveys included in report) iterations of the survey.