

# Predicting Adolescent Risk Behaviors Based on an Ecological Framework and Assets

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**Objectives:** To examine the relationship between an aggregate risk score (smoking, drinking, and number of sex partners) and measures of youth assets in a sample of 3439 youth aged 14–18 years.

**Methods:** Linear regression models for African American and white males and females predicted an aggregate risk score. **Results:** After adjustments, the youth asset most predictive of risk was

self / peer values regarding risk behaviors. Perceived school support was also predictive. **Conclusions:** Taking an ecological approach to the measurement of adolescent health behaviors contributes to our understanding of these risk behaviors.

**Key words:** adolescent health, assets, risks behaviors, ecological model

*Am J Health Behav.* 2005;29(2):150-161

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