

When It Comes To Youth, Research Reveals A Gap Between Adult Belief And Behavior

(NAPS)—Americans feel youth should be the nation's top priority. However, their actions suggest otherwise. Two recent surveys reveal a definite gap between what adults believe and their behavior.

When asked what the nation's highest priority should be, from five choices provided, 43% percent of adults ranked "preparing young people for the future" higher than improving healthcare (21%), keeping the economy strong (18%), reducing crime (12%) or protecting the environment (7%), according to research conducted by the Gallup Organization for America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth.

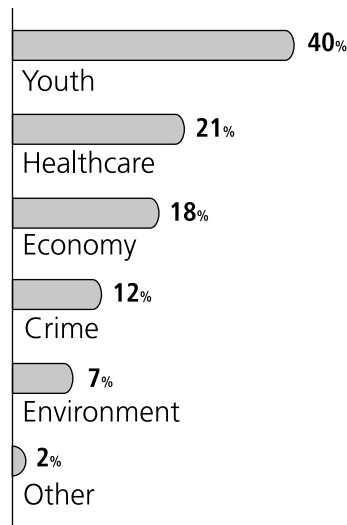
This is backed up by Grading Grown-Ups, a national report published by Lutheran Brotherhood and Search Institute, Minneapolis. The study reveals that a majority of adults believe they should be engaged in the lives of youth—providing the relationships and support young people need to develop into confident, independent and successful adults.

Yet, too few adults are acting on that belief. The Search study also shows that too many young people are not reaping the rewards of positive adult engagement. In fact, a majority of 12- to 18-year-olds report they do not have sustained, intergenerational relationships; they are unknown in their neighborhoods; their schools are not warm places; and their communities do not value them.

But, there is an organization working to bridge this gap. America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth is engaging millions of adults in the lives of youth, where they live, work and worship.

"We need to transform our society. All Americans must pull their weight to ensure that all our children become children of promise," said Marc Racicot, former governor

Nation's Highest Priority (Adults)



"Preparing young people for the future" should be the nation's highest priority say 40% of respondents — more important than improving healthcare, the economy, reducing crime and the environment.

2001 Gallup Organization



of Montana and chairman of America's Promise.

America's Promise is helping the American public act on what it believes. With Colin L. Powell as its founding chairman, America's Promise is mobilizing people from every sector of American life to build the character and competence of youth by fulfilling Five Promises: caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, marketable skills and opportunities to serve.

For more information about America's Promise or how to become involved in your community visit www.americaspromise.org, AOL Keyword: America's Promise or call 1-888-55-YOUTH.