

## About The Partnership

The Partnership’s mission is work together with community residents and Norwalk-based organizations to reduce rates of substance misuse among youth and young adults and develop resources to support a healthy, safe, substance-free Norwalk. *The Partnership* was formed in July 2018, by Positive Directions- The Center for Prevention and Counseling, out of prior Norwalk prevention work and has as its single focus a commitment to

substance misuse prevention among youth. *The Partnership* is currently funded through the Partnership For Success grant through the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS).



Map w/ Norwalk marked

### Substance(s) of Concern in Norwalk

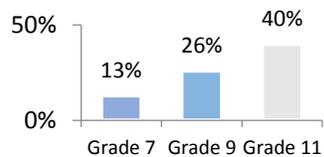
- Underage Alcohol Use among youth, ages 12-20
- Non-medical Use of Prescription Drugs among young adults, ages 18-25



### Key Community Data & Trends

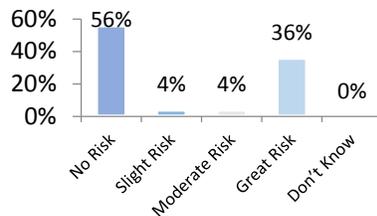
#### Alcohol Use Rates Among Norwalk Youth (2018)

Please note the significant increases in youth reporting consuming at least 1 alcoholic drink from 7<sup>th</sup> Grade to 9<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>.



#### Perceived Harm of Non-Medical Rx Drugs Among Norwalk Young Adults (2019)

Please note that overwhelmingly Norwalk young adults perceive that there is no risk/harm to using prescription drugs without a prescription.



## Root Causes: Why is this problem here?

Local data which highlights the prominence of alcohol include:

- 95% of Norwalk residents reported that it would be Easy for a young person (12-20) to access alcohol beverages [Norwalk Community Survey, March 2017].
- Youth report alcohol can be accessed through someone older; in some instances, parents do provide through home or direct purchase. [High School Focus Group, March 2017]

### Social Access to Alcohol

- “People are selling their drugs through social media.” [Young Adult Focus Group, October 2017]
- When responding to why young adults (ages 18-25) are taking prescription drugs that aren’t their own or abuse their own Rx, young adults reported curiosity, access through older siblings, give/trade/sell anxiety drugs due to un/underemployment. [Young Adult Focus Group, October 2017]

### Social Access to Nonmedical Use of Prescription Drugs

## Main Strategies

### Strategy 1- Provide Information



### Strategy 2- Capacity Building



### Strategy 3- Enhance Skills

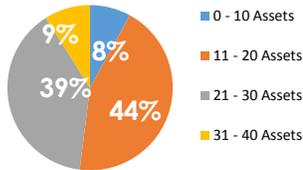


# Efforts & Accomplishments

## Provide Information- National Prevention Week (NPW)

Norwalk has been implementing National Prevention Week activities starting in May 2017. This not only gave coalition members opportunities to be involved in planning and implementing activities, but also set Norwalk as a leading community who has embraced NPW programming to build capacity within the community. Between all community and school related events held during that special week, we reached over 2,104 people.

## Capacity Building- Implementation of Social-Emotional Survey of Norwalk youth



Through the partnership with the Norwalk Public School District and Norwalk ACTS, *The Partnership* implemented the Search Institute's Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behaviors survey for youth in grades 7, 9 and 11. The survey asked young people in grades 7, 9, and 11 to respond to questions asking about their sources of strength and support (or "developmental assets") as well as their engagement with risky behaviors. This data will not only inform *The Partnership* but other community collaborations involving the social-emotional needs of Norwalk youth

## Enhance Skills- Youth Engagement

Through our current funding, we have had the great pleasure of employing (4) Norwalk youth and young adults who we have provided ongoing training to help support the work of the grant. Within their roles as Youth Advocates, they ensured consistent youth voice throughout the process especially within the development of needs assessment, strategic planning, as well as continuing to advocate for policy and curriculum changes.

### The Partnership: Building our Capacity

- *Despite multiple attempts in Norwalk in the past to implement a student survey, Norwalk's FIRST social-emotional survey was accomplished due to the 'talent and treasure' of the PFS grant and staff.*

### Our Coalition at a glance

**Since PFS 2015 began New Collaborations have included:** Human Services Council (HSC), Norwalk Public Schools, Norwalk Community College (NCC), Norwalk Police Department, Norwalk ACTS, Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance, Norwalk Health Department, Family and Children's Agency (FCA), Triangle Community Center  
Norwalk PTO Council, Courage to Speak Foundation, East Norwalk Library Association, AFC Urgent Care, Southwest Regional Mental Health Board, Ase Kreationz, Boy Responsive Literacy, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), Mid-Fairfield AIDS Project, Circle Care Health Center  
TurningpointCT, Turningpoint Program, and ESL with Kathy.

### Short-Term Outcomes

- Increase the number of Norwalk youth, grades 7-12, who report that there are clear rules about what they can and cannot do in their family from 84% (October 2018) to 88% (May 2020) on the Search Student Survey.
- Increase the number of Norwalk young adults, ages 18-25, who believe that their campus is concerned about the prevention of drug and alcohol use from 65% (May 2018) to 70% (May 2020) on the Core Alcohol & Drug Survey.
- Expand the breadth and reach of *The Partnership* by recruiting 4 new individual members and 2 community organizations.
- Increase the capacity of *The Partnership* by providing 8 professional development opportunities (in-house trainings, CADCA conferences, TTASC & CAPP trainings) for coalition members.

### Long-Term Outcomes

- Reduce, by 10%, the number of Norwalk youth, grades 9 & 11, who report alcohol use in the past 30 days from 32% (2018) to 22.5% (2020) on the Search Student Survey.
- Decrease, by 5%, the number of Norwalk young adults, ages 18-25, who report using prescription drugs not prescribed to them (amphetamines and sedatives) once or more in the past 30 days from 1% (Baseline 2018) to <1% (2020) on the Core Alcohol & Drug Survey.
- *Increase the capacity of The Partnership by increasing sector engagement, community collaborations, and member trainings as measured by a 5% increase in mean scores on the Coalition Member Assessment (Wolff & Kaye), from 4.12 May 2018 to 4.32 May 2020.*

## Opportunities and Next Steps

- Concentration on Diversity and Culture
- Continued Data Collection
- Prevention Workshops for Families and Partnering Organizations
- Increased membership of The Partnership
- Ongoing communication with the Norwalk community

## Get Involved!

- Visit [www.positivedirections.org](http://www.positivedirections.org) for the 2019-2020 meeting schedule and upcoming events for the public
- *Want to be involved in coalition work? Contact Denique!*

## Connect with Us!

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