

A Framework to Reduce Underage Drinking

Connecticut's prevention system has made substantial progress in decreasing substance use and abuse and promoting health. Aided by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF), a 5-year, \$11.8 million initiative funded by SAMHSA, 52 towns receive funding aimed at reducing underage drinking. The CT SPF is a collaborative effort of several State agencies, community, and academic partners that have a long history of working together to successfully implement evidence-based health promotion strategies.

Alcohol and Underage Drinking in CT: According to the 2002 National Household Survey of Drug Use and Health, 59% of people ages 12 or older in Connecticut are current users of alcohol. Underage drinking cost Connecticut taxpayers an estimated \$600 million. Data on alcohol-related crashes resulting in fatalities places Connecticut in the "fatal 15" with 45.2% of all fatal motor vehicle crashes involving alcohol. The Connecticut SPF provides funding to 28 communities to address this problem.



Connecticut's Toolkit for Promoting Healthy Communities

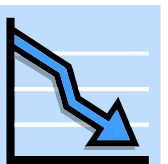
- Coordinated approach to reducing alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, at the state, regional and local levels
- Statewide prevention services for individuals, families and schools
- State, community, and academic partnerships and resource sharing
- State and local data-driven planning and decision making processes
- Statewide Resources/Training Centers
- Underage drinking coalitions in communities and on college campuses
- Over 130 town-based Local Prevention Councils covering the state
- Evaluating and sustaining what works



Gains in Promoting Health

- CT youth and young adults engaged in promoting healthy behaviors among their peers
- Over 40 CT colleges and universities united to combat underage drinking on campuses
- Social Host Law enforced to deter providing alcohol to teens at house parties
- Retail compliance checks focused on reducing teen access to alcohol increased
- Education provided to alcohol sellers and servers
- Members of 28 new coalitions that are developing plans and strategies to reduce underage drinking and enforce policy and laws supported
- Use and consequence data tracked to measure progress towards a healthier Connecticut

Connecticut's Prevention Efforts Work!



- ✓ A 2002 survey found **decreased** alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and inhalant use among middle and high school students.
- ✓ Data show a six-year **decline** in the rate of cigarette use with 7th-8th and 9th-10th grade student's rate falling to 12% and 22% respectively.
- ✓ Tobacco merchants willing to sell tobacco products to minors **decreased** from 69% in 1996 to 10.7% in 2005.