



Info Brief

Underage Drinking prevention in Enfield: Summary of results for last 4 years

In 2004, the Town of Enfield Youth Services established the Enfield Together Coalition (ETC) to assess the extent of substance use in the community and develop strategies to reduce the use of alcohol and other drugs by Enfield youth. In 2009, ETC secured a four year DMHAS Partnership for Success (PFS) Grant to continue its efforts to address underage drinking by addressing environmental factors that contribute to underage drinking in our community. Our mission statement -- *to reduce and prevent underage drinking and substance use in youth through raising awareness, educating parents/youth, and enforcing underage drinking laws in Enfield, CT* -- serves as the Coalition's guiding principle for all activities.

About Enfield*

- Area: 34.2 sq. miles; Population: 44,687
- 5,275 residents are age 10 – 19
- 3,003 youth in grades between 6 – 12 attend Enfield Public Schools**
- Enfield has one middle school (JFK) and 2 high schools: Enfield and Enrico Fermi
- 32.8% of Enfield students (N=1,817) are eligible for free or reduced lunch**

**U.S. Census 2010; **Enfield Public Schools 2011/12*

Results

Over the course of 4 years, ETC distributed over 2,500 pieces of printed materials, pens, and other items with the ETC logo. ETC sponsored 12 trainings, 2 school-based surveys and 28 community events such as open houses and town hall meetings. During this period the Enfield Police conducted 8 roving DUI and 44 party patrols. Each year, compliance checks were completed for all 24 Enfield stores that sell liquor.

These positive results came about through the work of a committed coalition representing all sectors in the community.

Risk Factors & ETC Goals

ETC prioritized two risk factors:

- 1) Alcohol too readily available for youth under 21
- 2) Law enforcement inconsistent due to Police Department lacking resources to conduct compliance checks and Party & DUI patrols.

ETC's Long Term Goals:

- 1) Decrease use in past 30 day use
- 2) Increase in perception of risk
- 3) Increase in perceived parental disapproval
- 4) Increase in age of onset

The ETC Successes

	2009	2013	Improved
Past 30 day use (M.S.)	11.3%	6.6%	✓
Past 30 day use (H.S.)	37.5%	28.2%	✓
Perception of risk in drinking (M.S.)	76.5%	80.1%	✓
Perception of risk in drinking (H.S.)	73.2%	74.8%	✓
Parental approval of drinking (wrong/very wrong) (M.S.)	92.0%	94.7%	✓
Parental approval of drinking (wrong/very wrong) (H.S.)	83.9%	87.9%	✓
Increase in age of onset (M.S.)	10.6	11.3	✓
Increase in age of onset (H.S.)	13.2	13.4	✓
Source: Enfield Youth Services Survey			