

# INFO BRIEF

## NORTHWEST COALITION TO REDUCE UNDERAGE DRINKING

For more information please contact Jessica Wright at 860-496-2139 or [jessica.wright@mccall-foundation.org](mailto:jessica.wright@mccall-foundation.org)

### STRATEGIES USED

Partnerships with Torrington Police Department to conduct party, community, and school patrols along with DWI checkpoints

Media campaigns to raise awareness on the dangers of underage drinking

The implementation of the Alcohol Edu course to Torrington High School Juniors in 2013

Community panel discussions for the past two years along with hosting a motivational speaker for middle and high school students

### HISTORY OF THE COALITION

The Northwest Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking has received the Partnership for Success Grant from the State of Connecticut's Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for the past 4 years and was formed nearly ten years ago. The coalition utilizes the Strategic Prevention Framework to address the issue of underage drinking in the Torrington and Winsted communities. Most recently, the coalition received enhanced funding to include prescription drug abuse prevention.

### 2011 DEMOGRAPHICS FOR TORRINGTON

(from Connecticut Economic Resource Center)

Population	36,380
Land Area in sq. miles	40
Median Age	42
Youth age 5-17	5,666

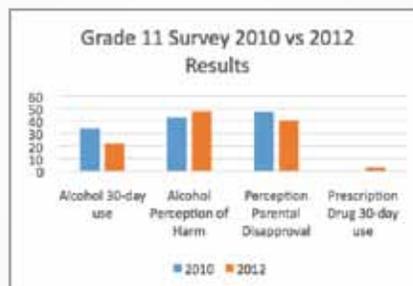


### RISK FACTORS & OUR GOAL

Through a comprehensive community needs assessment the risk factors identified for both substances are: law enforcement and perception of harm. The coalition's goal is to build the community's capacity to reduce youth substance use by implementing and evaluating evidence-based prevention and environmental strategies.

### SURVEY RESULTS

Most significantly, we have decreased overall alcohol 30 day use by 53%. Youth are reporting an increase in perception of great harm with alcohol by 3%. Youth are also reporting a slight decrease in perceived strong parental disapproval of alcohol by 5%. As for obtaining alcohol overall, youth report a 33% decrease in obtaining at home with parental permission and a 64% decrease from parties. Youth are primarily obtaining alcohol at home without permission and from friends. In 2012 3.2% of youth reported abusing prescription drugs, with comparison data being collected this year.



Survey used to assess effectiveness of strategies every other year, with next one being administered April-May 2014.

### OH HOW WE HAVE GROWN

This past year, coalition meetings have been held in both Torrington and Winsted. The Winsted members of our coalition expressed the difficulty in attending coalition meetings in Torrington but stressed the need for coalition efforts; hence the two meetings unique to each community. New additions to membership have been from Petricone's Pharmacy, Connecticut Junior Republic, and Family Strides.

### LOOKING FORWARD

The coalition is in the process of administering the youth survey which includes specific questions related to prescription drug abuse and heroin as the community has seen a recent increase in heroin overdoses. We are also surveying local parents this year.

### STILL TO COME!

PRESCRIPTION LOCK BOX at Torrington Police Department

