



CITIZENS AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE

2016 INFO BRIEF

OUR MISSION

The Citizens Against Substance Abuse Coalition aims to reduce substance abuse and promote wellness in Wolcott through collaboration, education, awareness and community action.

Working closely with 12 community sectors, this community Coalition gathers and combines talents and resources to address local substance abuse and other related issues.



PREVENTION WORKS!

Research over the last two decades has proven that drug and alcohol addiction is both preventable and treatable. Prevention strategies must be a critical component for any comprehensive strategy to address drug use and underage drinking. All youth must have the benefit of effective alcohol and drug abuse prevention.

PROFILE OF OUR YOUTH*

POSITIVES

- 77% of youth are not drinking.
- 85% of youth are not using marijuana.
- 95% of youth are not smoking cigarettes.
- 97% of youth are not abusing prescription drugs.
- Over 90% of youth believe their parents think it is wrong for them to use substances (parental disapproval has one of the strongest impacts of youth using substances).



IN WOLCOTT...

- Current alcohol and marijuana use rates are higher than State and National rates.
- Risky behaviors continue among youth - in 2016 21% of HS students reported binge drinking (5+ drinks in a row) in the past 2 weeks.
- Students report easy access to alcohol, marijuana, and cigarettes and most report access from homes (their own or a friends) and at parties.
- Youth attitudes on use are lax - 38% of HS students feel it is okay to drink sometimes even if underage, smoke marijuana, and vape from an electronic cigarette.



A FEW ACCOMPLISHMENTS

EDUCATION & OUTREACH



- Community Forum on Opioid and Heroin Use & Prescription Drug Misuse and Abuse and a Town Hall meeting on youth alcohol use were hosted.
- Presentations and exhibits throughout the community and schools on Student Risky Behaviors, Drug Trends and Why Prevention Works are provided.
- Increase in community collaborations throughout Wolcott.
- Engage, grow and motivate the community coalition.



ENFORCEMENT & ACCESS

- Partnered with the Wolcott Police Department to conduct alcohol Compliance Checks, in collaboration with CT Liquor Commission.
- Supported Tobacco Compliance Checks.
- Coordinated Drug Take Back Day events.
- Funded extra Party Patrols for Wolcott Police Department.
- Promoted a social norms campaign around underage drinking and drug use and the Social Host Law.

WHAT CAN YOU DO



#PeopleCanBeAmazing
= #YouthAreTheKey
#PreventionIsPower

INFORMATION

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Meetings are open to the public.

Please join us at our meetings on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Wolcott Police Department.

PARENTS

- Secure alcohol in your home so that it isn't accessible to teens.
- Talk early and often to your kids about how underage drinking and drug use is illegal and unacceptable.
- Help your kids develop a strategy if they are pressured to drink or do drugs.

SCHOOLS

- Expect everyone to do their best.
- Set high standards for how students and staff are expected to behave.
- Be consistent about following through with consequences when these standards are not met.

COMMUNITY

- Treat neighbors of all ages with respect and courtesy.
- Become a mentor.
- Say hello to a teen in your neighborhood.

BUSINESSES

- Treat teenage employees, as you do adult employees. Have clear guidelines and expectations for professional behaviors and give them support and encouragement to do their best.
- Offer internships for youth with concrete learning opportunities, good supervision, and plenty of support and guidance.