

Underage drinking isn't just about drinking and driving...

Providing alcohol to people under 21 is known to contribute to:

- **Suicide**
- **Sexual Assaults**
- **Delinquency**
- **Poor Grades**
- **Alcohol Poisoning**
- **Pregnancy**
- **Homicide**
- **Addiction**
- **Injuries**
- **Other Drug Use**



Alcohol and youth don't mix!

"Together We Can" is made up of the following three Youth Service Bureaus and their Prevention Councils:

Youth and Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth, Inc.

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Higganum, CT 06441
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www.hkyfs.org
Executive Director: Cheryl Chandler
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Tri-Town Youth Services, Inc.

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**Together We Can...
prevent
and
reduce
underage
drinking!**



Chester | Deep River | East Haddam | Essex | Haddam | Killingworth

Serving the towns of:

- *Chester*
- *Deep River*
- *Essex*
- *East Haddam*
- *Haddam*
- *Killingworth*

Local underage drinking statistics

(averaged and compiled from survey results from all towns and from focus groups)

- 39% of youth in grades 7-12 reported using alcohol in the past 30 days
- 25% of youth in grades 7-12 got drunk in the last two weeks



Youth in the focus groups reported that, from their perspective, “kids are drinking to get drunk, not because they enjoy the taste” and “about 70% of the student population does drink alcohol” and “people drink because they need...a story to tell come Monday.”

Together We Can and the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG)

Together We Can is funded by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for three years to prevent and reduce underage drinking in our six towns. We will be utilizing the Strategic Prevention Framework which consists of five steps and **an overall focus on cultural competency**. The five steps are:

1. **Assessment:** looking at local data about underage drinking (surveys, police data, etc)
2. **Capacity Building:** training and presentations about SPF SIG and Together We Can efforts
3. **Planning:** collaborating with community stakeholders to create a strategic plan
4. **Implementation:** strategies and programs selected to address underage drinking
5. **Evaluation:** ongoing monitoring and evaluation to assess the effectiveness of our strategies

Food for thought...

"A child who reaches age 21 without smoking, abusing alcohol or using drugs is virtually certain never to do so."
- Joseph A. Califano, Jr., CASA



Implementation strategies

We are excited about our groundbreaking collaboration specifically organized to address underage drinking in the six towns we serve through multiple environmental prevention strategies such as:

- Training for liquor store owners
- Media Campaign to raise awareness
- Compliance Checks at liquor stores
- Overtime for police to focus on enforcement of the house party law
- Innovative speakers and presentations for parents and youth

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