

## The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services A Healthcare Service Agency

John G. Rowland,  
Governor

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Commissioner

### Prevention – Let's Support What Works

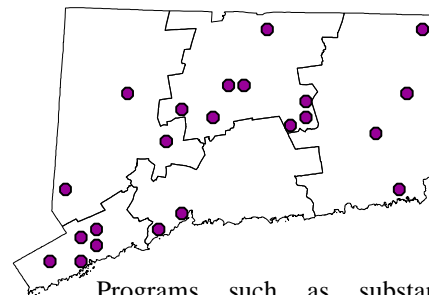
Substance abuse is one of Connecticut's leading problems – more people die, become ill, or are disabled from abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs than from any other **preventable** healthcare condition. Thanks to a three year federal award (\$9 million) known as the **Governor's Prevention Initiative for Youth (GPIY)**, locally-developed projects in 21 communities are helping to pin down what approaches work best. Based on the latest **University of Connecticut Health Center** – conducted survey of over 9,100 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade students in those 21 communities, we are headed in the right direction. "Recent use", i.e. within 30 days of survey, of alcohol, marijuana, inhalants, and cigarettes by 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders continued the decreases noted in the 1997/98 UConn survey. The cigarette and marijuana results are especially impressive.

The GPIY is an important part of Connecticut's success to date. Major components are:

- 21 Community Initiatives
- Statewide Student Survey – UConn
- State Partners – Governor's Office, Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Children and Families, Education, Public Health, Social Services, Transportation, Office of Policy and Management, and the Judicial Branch.

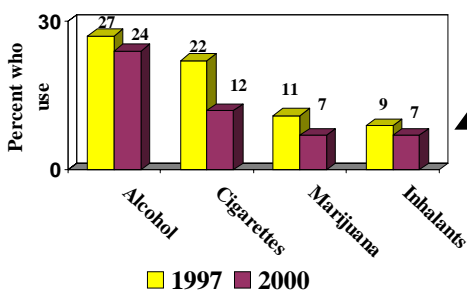


Communities Served by GPIY Programs



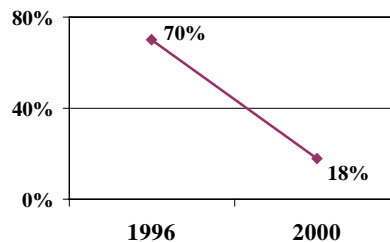
Programs such as substance abuse prevention and life skills education, mentoring, career exploration, academic tutoring, and conflict resolution.

Recent Use of Alcohol, Cigarettes, Marijuana and Inhalants – Grade 7-8



Headed in the right directions

CT "Buy Rate" (minor's ability to buy tobacco)



#### Next Steps



- ✓ Increase emphasis on tested local practices
- ✓ Continue state agency collaboration

- ✓ Disseminate lessons learned
- ✓ Refocus resources to effective approaches