Results of the 2016 Connecticut Community Readiness Survey

What is the Community Readiness Survey (CRS)?

The CRS is a key informant survey, conducted biennially by DMHAS since 2006 to measure state and community readiness and capacity for implementing effective evidence-based substance abuse prevention programs, policies and practices.

The results of the CRS have contributed to state, subregional and community strategic prevention planning and evaluation.

The 2016 Survey

- Survey shortened from prior versions.
- Added items on attitudes about mental health, marijuana, and prescription drug misuse.
- Re-tooled items on suicide prevention and gambling.
- 801 key informants participated, from multiple community sectors, in towns and municipalities across Connecticut.

Key informants reported greater readiness for substance abuse prevention in Connecticut from 2006 to 2016 (4.3 to 5.1 mean readiness level).

Communities in Connecticut are moving from recognition of the substance abuse problem to planning for substance abuse prevention and focus on strategies and funding for prevention efforts.

Problem Substances of Greatest Concern According to Respondents: Connecticut CRS, 2016

Change in Statewide Community Readiness: Connecticut CRS, 2006 - 2016
### Community Attitudes about Mental Health Promotion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>strongly agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support early ID of MH problems in children and youth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are concerned about improving mental health</td>
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<td>3.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are concerned about access to MH services for adults</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Believe MH problems are private/should be addressed at home</td>
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<td>2.4</td>
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</tbody>
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### Community Attitudes about Substance Abuse Prevention

- **87%** of key informants agree that community members believe substance abuse prevention programs for youth are a good investment.
- **73%** agree that community members believe it is possible to prevent ATOD problems among youth.
- **75%** agree that community members feel that more attention should be paid to preventing non-medical use of prescription drugs.
- **44%** of key informants agree that community members know about community programs working to prevent SA.
- **46%** agree that community members feel it is OK for youth to drink occasionally.
- **45%** agree that community members would support legalization of marijuana.
- **47%** agree that community members feel substance abuse is a private matter to be dealt with at home.

### Community Attitudes about Suicide Prevention

9 out of 10 respondents agreed or strongly agreed that suicide prevention efforts (such as educational programs, training, policies and identification and referral of individuals at risk) are needed in the community.

Respondents reported “SOME” community support for suicide prevention efforts (3.1 on a scale of 1-4) and MODERATE ability to implement suicide prevention at the community level (2.84 on a scale of 1-4).

### Other Key Findings

- Over three quarters (77%) of respondents felt that it was important to prevent problem gambling in the community.
- Over half of respondents know that substance abuse prevention data is available for use.
- The top barrier to community substance abuse prevention is limited financial resources.

### NEXT STEPS

- Broaden investment and expertise in data driven planning.
- Enhance awareness of evidence-based practices and environmental strategies.
- Heighten visibility and resources through prevention funding opportunities.
- Bolster support and capacity at the state and community levels.
- **Participate in the Community Readiness Survey in Spring 2018!**

For more information on the CRS, contact the Center for Prevention Evaluation and Statistics (CPES) at (860) 679-5409 or sussman@uchc.edu