



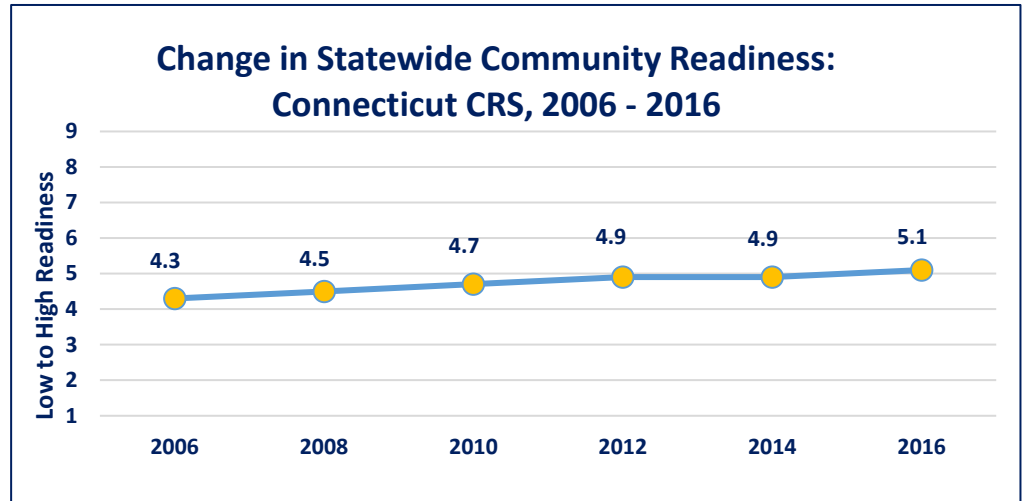
# Results of the 2016 Connecticut Community Readiness Survey



## 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.

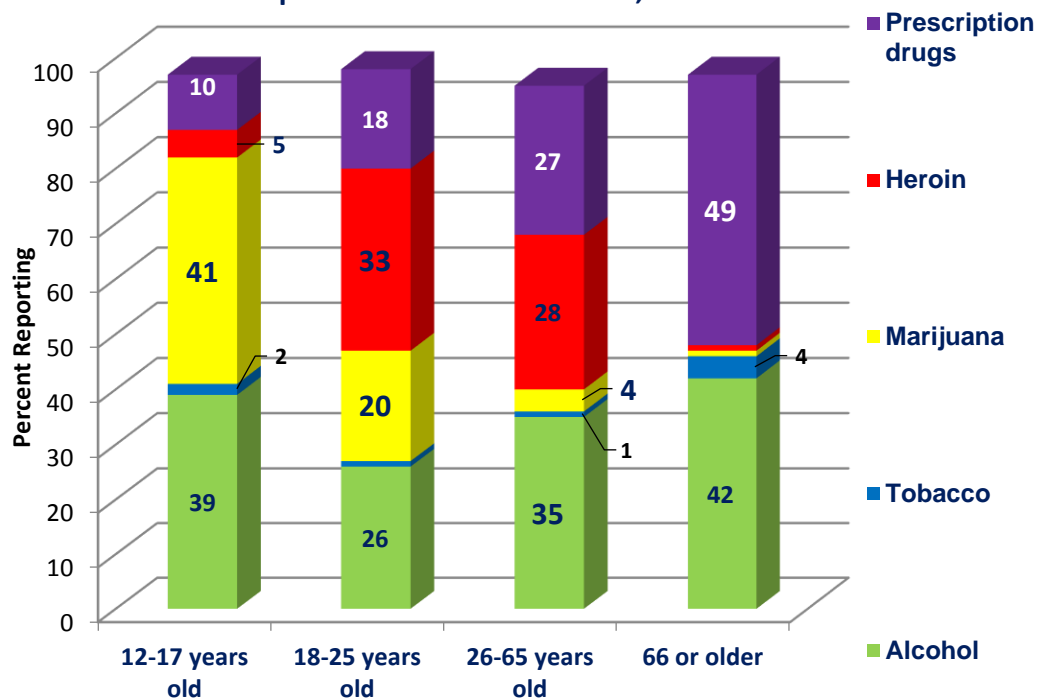


- Key informants reported greater readiness for substance abuse prevention in Connecticut from 2006 to 2016 (4.3 to 5.1 mean readiness level).
- Communities in Connecticut are moving from *recognition* of the substance abuse problem to *planning* for substance abuse prevention and *focus on strategies and funding* for prevention efforts.

## 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.

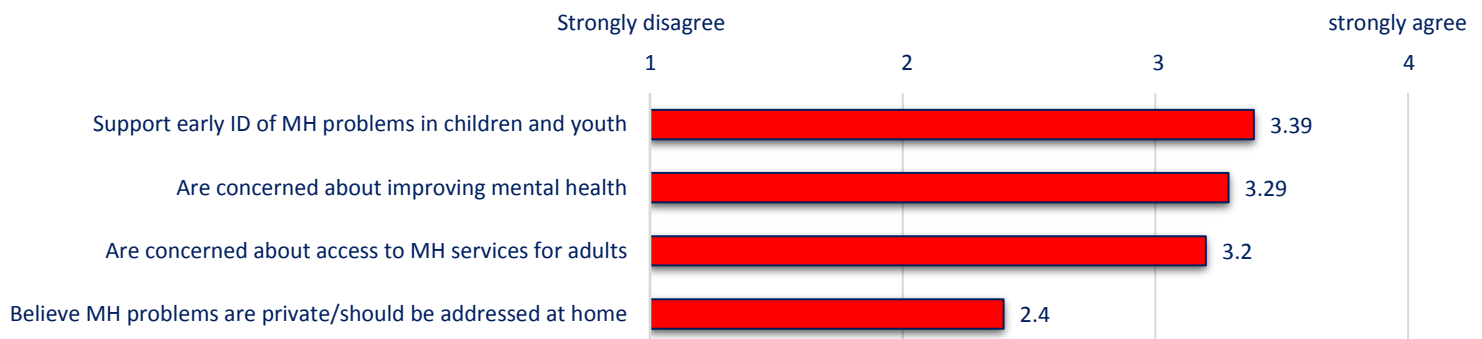
## Problem Substances of Greatest Concern According to Respondents: Connecticut CRS, 2016



## 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 Mental Health Promotion



## 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](mailto:sussman@uchc.edu)