

# UNDERAGE DRINKING IN NORWALK

FINDINGS OF THE OCTOBER 2022 NORWALK YOUTH SURVEY OF 7TH-12TH GRADERS. N=3969 (69% RESPONSE RATE)

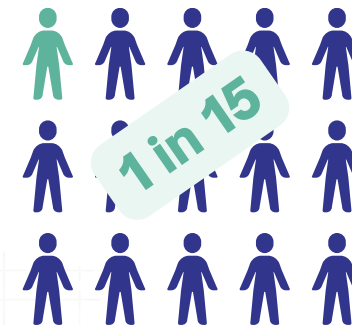
## Norwalk 9th-12th graders drink less than in the past:



ever used alcohol



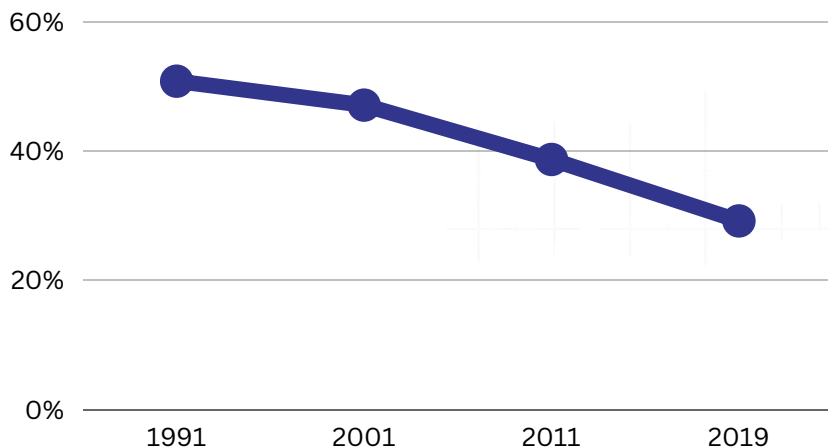
have binge drunk\*



currently drink

### CDC DATA SHOWS U.S. HIGH SCHOOL DRINKING HAS DECLINED FOR DECADES:

% HS students who drank at least once in last 30 days



*\*Binge drinking is associated with drug use, impaired driving, injury, unprotected sex, dating violence & suicide attempt.*

### Risky Behaviors:

- Norwalk teens whose **peers don't disapprove** are **2x** more likely to drink
- **25%** of Norwalk teens who are sexually active had **sex under the influence**
- **7%** have ridden with an **impaired driver** who was under age 21

## The More You Know...

- Kids who start drinking before age 15 are **4 times more likely** to develop alcohol dependency.
- Each year that teens delay drinking reduces their likelihood of alcohol problems by **14%**.
- CT's Social Host Law holds parents/guardians **legally liable** for anyone who is underage. The fine is \$2000 per minor who drinks or uses cannabis on property the adult rents or owns!
- Norwalk students who report low parental disapproval of underage alcohol use drink **3.5x more**.



## Resources

- Don't let friends or family drive drunk! Norwalk's Wheels 2 U shuttle service operates a door-to-door service in central Norwalk for \$2 a ride on Thursday through Sunday evenings.
- Tell your teens to call you (or take an Uber) at any time of day or night if they don't have a safe ride home, no yelling & no questions asked. (Discuss it the next day when they're safe!)
- Text the Norwalk Police Department's anonymous tip line (274-637) if you know about an underage drinking event, someone providing alcohol to minors, or an impaired driver.
- If you suspect a youth is drinking, reach out to the School-Based Health Center at your middle or high school, your school counselor, or Norwalk Youth Services Bureau for help.

TEXT YOUR TIP TO:

C-R-I-M-E-S (274637)

Keyword NPD