

# The Problem

## Be A Part Of The Solution

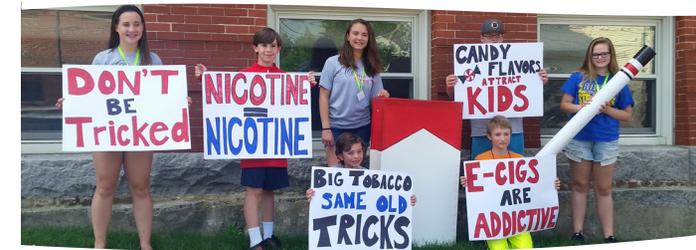
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**BridgingTheGapsNH.org**  
**603-330-7160**

# Bridging The Gaps

Rochester's Drug and Alcohol Prevention Coalition



Providing comprehensive drug prevention efforts to the community, through education and advocacy



**Bridging The Gaps**



**BridgingTheGapsNH**



**@BridgingGapsNH**

Substance abuse is not a problem that is unique to Rochester. Every community across the country faces drug use problems.

Through youth surveys, Rochester has been able to collect data that helps us focus our efforts. This information allows us to develop prevention programs and community strategies targeting the most commonly used substances among youth in our community.

**Alcohol** has consistently been the most commonly used substance with about 30% of high school students reporting that they drank in the last 30 days.

This is followed by **Marijuana** use with about 25% reporting having used it in the past 30-days. Use has increased in the past couple of years.

**Tobacco** use has seen a significant decline in use among high schoolers. However the trend of **electronic vapor products** has surged in recent years. Currently about 34% of high school students report using them in the past 30-days.

**Prescription Drug** abuse is a growing trend with 15% of high school students reporting they have taken a prescription without a doctors permission in their lifetime.

Visit our website for resources and tips on talking to your kids about drugs

23 Wakefield Street  
Rochester, NH 03867

[BridgingTheGapsNH.org](http://BridgingTheGapsNH.org)

# The Coalition

## Vision

A healthier Rochester, free of substance abuse and its associated harms

## Mission

To provide comprehensive drug prevention efforts to the community, through education and advocacy

Bridging The Gaps is the means by which we hope to bring all of the elements of the community together to take on underage drinking, marijuana use, prescription drug abuse, and other substance use issues. No one agency, business, or program can solve the complex issues associated with substance use.

The Coalition promotes a cooperative approach to prevention that results in a consistent strategy and message about alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. This will insure, for example, that kids are not getting conflicting messages about drugs, alcohol, and other substances from their coaches, SRO Officers, teachers, and parents.

## Coalition members come from all sectors of the community

Law Enforcement • Businesses • Parents • Media • Schools • Youth • Substance Experts • Religious Org. • Youth Serving Org. • Health Professionals • Local Government • Civic Org.



# What We Do

The Coalition has many programs aimed at reducing substance use among youth. The programs are designed to address the factors in a community that increase the risk of substance abuse and promote the factors that minimize the risk of substance abuse. This is accomplished a variety of ways, some of which include:

- ✓ **Enhancing Skills of Parents and Adults:** for example our It Takes A Village Community Forum to inform parents and adults about local and current substance use issues
- ✓ **Educating and Engaging Youth:** such as educational presentations given to over 2,000 students in the Rochester School System each year
- ✓ **Public Information Campaigns:** such as a community campaign focused on the importance of strong youth and adult relationships
- ✓ **Promoting Programs that Limit Youth Access:** as in our Drug Take Back events where adults can safely dispose of unneeded or unused medications
- ✓ **Modify policies:** for example working to change the schools athletic code of conduct to include a restorative justice model



# A Healthier Rochester, Free Of Substance Abuse And Its Associated Harms