



*City of Bristol
Youth Commission*

INFORMATION TO ACCESS THIS MEETING

[https://bristolct-
gov.zoom.us/j/85852635281?pwd=IRy3Ua04nOCtOfUZr0UITPDvVbSPJg.1](https://bristolct.gov.zoom.us/j/85852635281?pwd=IRy3Ua04nOCtOfUZr0UITPDvVbSPJg.1)

The regular [AGENDA_OFFICAL_BODY] meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at 6:00 PM. in City Hall, 111 North Main Street, Bristol, CT.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Attendance
2. Public Participation
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Approval of Minutes: August 13, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes
4. Supervisor's Report
 - a. Supervisor's Report
 - b. Year to Date Financials
 - c. Project Aware Updates
 - d. Youth Diversion Team
 - e. BEST Updates - Trends in Nicotine
5. New Business
 - a. Holiday Gift Giving Program
 - How to Apply
 - Donor Recruitment and Suggestions

- Frequently Asked Questions
- How to Volunteer
- Upcoming Holiday Events

6. Old Business

- a. Board Member Self-Assessment
- b. By Commissioners

7. Adjournment

PER ORDER OF THE CHAIRPERSON
Officer Matthew Gotowala



Youth Commission

Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Bristol City Hall-111 North Main Street Bristol, CT 06010 Room G-1

1. Call to Order

Chair Matthew Gotowala called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Attendance

Members Present:

Matthew Gotowala, Chair
Deborah Ahl, Vice Chair
Richard Kilby, Commissioner
Donna Osuch, Commissions
Erick Rosengren, City Council Liaison
Joshua Medeiros, Superintendent
Stephen Bynum, Youth and Community
Services Supervisor
Deedra Willingham, B.E.S.T Project
Coordinator
Aubrey Minkler, Community Services
Coordinator
Nina Chanana, B.E.S.T Youth Diversion
Team

Absent:

Luke Viens, Commissioner
Lance Washington, Commissioner
Renee Singleton, Commissioner

2. Public Participation

None.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of Minutes - April 9, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Ahl to Approve the April 9, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Kilby, all in favor, motion carried.

4. Supervisor's Report

a. Supervisor's Report

Youth and Community Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Supervisor's Report; discussion followed.

b. Year to Date Financials

Youth and Community Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Year-to-Date Financials; discussion followed.

c. Summer Program Update

Youth and Community Supervisor, Stephen Bynum, presented the Summer Program Updates. Supervisor Bynum updated the commission on the summer programs such as Roberto Clemente Baseball League, Youth Bowling nights and the distributed summer scholarships; discussion followed.

5. New Business

a. B.E.S.T. - Youth Survey Results Presentation

Nina Chanana presented the B.E.S.T Youth Survey Results to the board. Ms. Chanana stated about 1200 students completed this survey and thanked the schools for the assistance and the opportunity to distribute the survey; discussion followed.

b. Bristol Youth Diversion Team (Formally the Juvenile Review Board)

Youth and Community Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Bristol Youth Diversion Team (formerly the Juvenile Review Board); discussion followed.

c. Encampments - Parks Policy - Community Services

Bristol Parks and Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Joshua Medeiros presented the Homeless Encampment, Parks and Community Services Policy.

Superintendent Medeiros stated that there is not an official protocol for the City of Bristol. This is the policy that will be followed for the time being; discussion followed.

d. Board Member Self-Assessment

Youth and Community Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Board Member Self-Assessment form; discussion followed.

6. Old Business

a. Final Layout - City Hall Relocation Plan

Bristol Parks and Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Joshua Medeiros presented the Final Layout of the City Hall Relocation Plan; discussion followed.

b. By Commissioners

None.

7. Adjournment

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Ahl to adjourn at 7:14 p.m.
Seconded by Commissioner Lukasiewicz; all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amaris Estrada
Recording Secretary
Youth Commission



111 North Main Street, City Hall 2nd Floor Bristol, CT 06010 | 860-584-6160 | Parksandrecreation@bristolct.gov

Youth & Community Services Supervisor Report
Youth Commission
(October 22, 2025)

I. Counseling Updates

The Youth and Community Services Division is responsible for the coordination of a comprehensive community-based youth services bureau and the delivery of essential life services for Bristol residents in need. The Bureau strives to enhance the networking and support between family, school, peer, and community environments. Direct services include juvenile diversion programming, individual and family counseling, crisis support and positive youth development opportunities

This report is being generated to reflect data for individual and Family Counseling, Intakes and Referrals:

- Number of intakes conducted by staff: 5 (August - Present)
- Number of clients currently receiving services: 19 (Full-time staff, Contractors and Interns)
- Number of families referred by the BOE: 24 (Positive Youth Involvement Programs)
- Number of families referred for (FWSN) Families with Service's Needs: 0

Community Services and the Parent and Child Program:

- Intakes (August - Present) Basic Needs (17), Relocation (1), Evictions (14) and Foreclosures (7)
- Intakes for the caring closet (August - Present) (7)
- (0) referrals made to Fair Rent Commission / (0) referral made to Fair Housing

To learn more about the City of Bristol's Parks, Recreation, Youth & Community Services Department; visit us at

www.Bristolrec.com

Join the conversation @BristolCTParksandRecreation on Facebook & @bristolctparksrecservices on Instagram



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Girls with Goals

YFC Ashante Malone is working closely with Eastern High School staff to determine a start date for the Girls with Goals Group at Eastern. October 22nd has been set as a tentative start date. A group of all freshman students have been identified as potential participants for the group. A meet and greet is also being discussed to take place prior to the group.

YFC Raven Cody, along with BSW intern Chantal Gauvin, have been collaborating with staff at Bristol Central High School to prepare for the start of the Girls with Goals Program. Preparation has included meeting with each identified student individually to introduce the program, as well as calling home to parents/guardians to provide information and answer any questions about the program. The program is set to start on 10/15 and conclude on 12/10. Curriculum will include activities, discussion, and speakers surrounding topics such as self-esteem, mental health, healthy relationships, etc.



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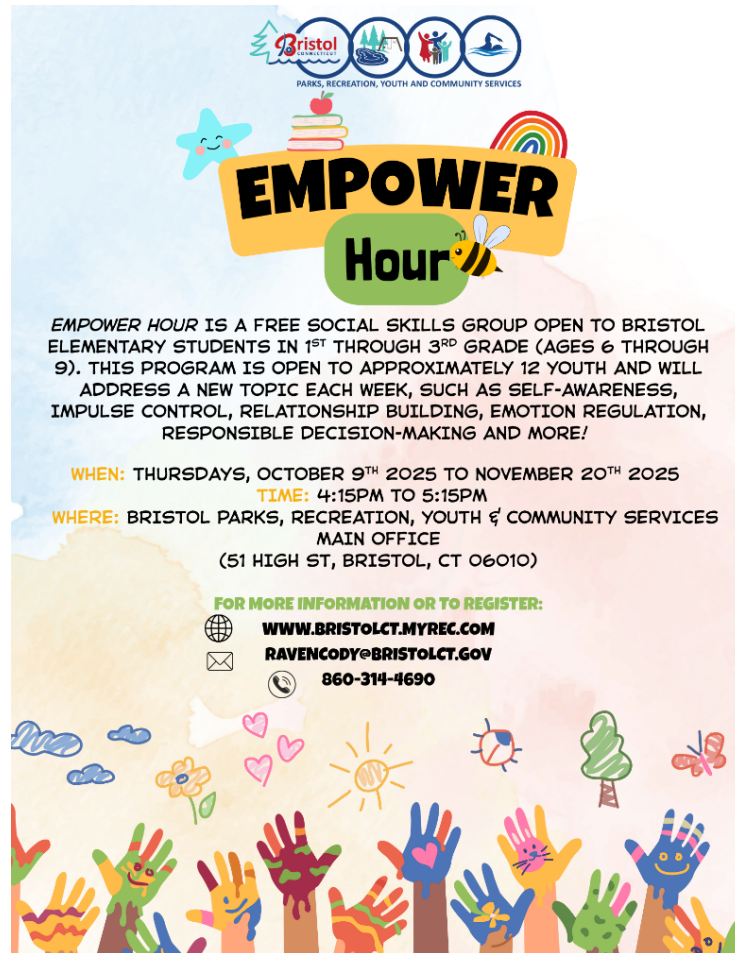
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Empower Hour



Empower Hour is set to run on Thursday evenings from 4:15 to 5:15 pm, beginning on October 9th and concluding on November 20th for a total of seven sessions. This session of Empower Hour is aimed towards 1st through 3rd grade students, and will be facilitated by Raven Cody, Youth & Family Coordinator, and Makayla Joseph, MSW intern. Program facilitators recruited for this program through outreach at the elementary schools, and the program has 10 Bristol elementary students registered. Program facilitators have connected with each family to identify the needs of the participants, in order to ensure the group is goal-oriented and effective. As a result, parents/guardians identified impulse control and emotion regulation as the two most highlighted areas of improvement. Other topics may also include empathy, self-awareness, and relationship building skills.

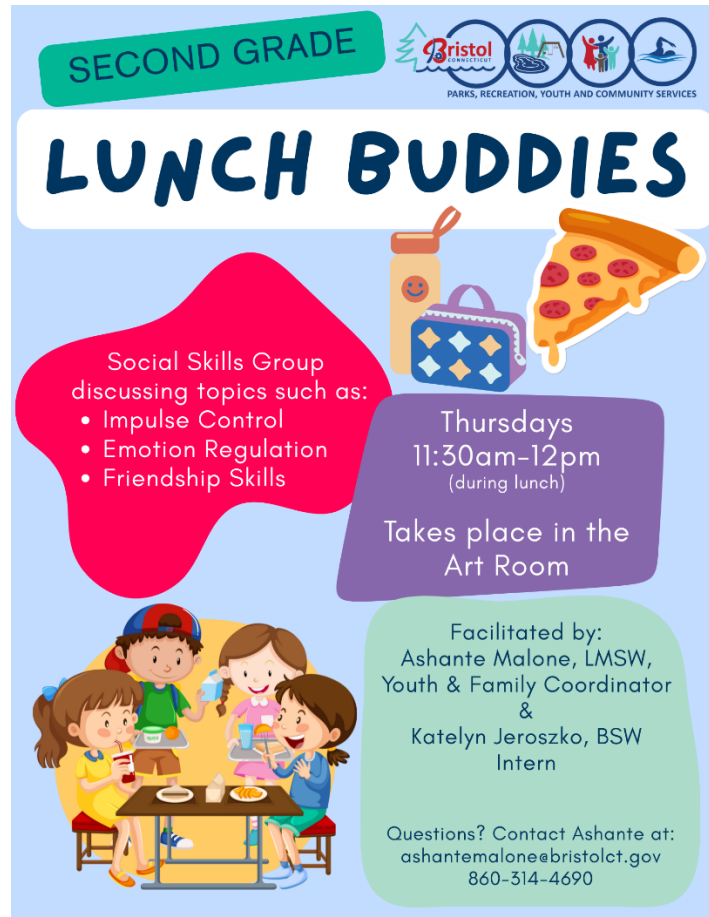
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Lunch Buddies



BYS staff has partnered with BPS staff at Mountain View elementary school to identify students to participate in this program. This program is scheduled to run from October 9th through December 4th, meeting weekly for lunch. This program currently has seven 2nd grade boys and girls participating. This group is facilitated by Youth & Family Coordinator Ashante Malone with the assistance of BYS intern Katelyn Jeroszko. Topics identified by facilitators include leadership skills, communication skills, decision-making schools, and teamwork skills.

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Young Women's Issues Group

YOUNG WOMEN'S ISSUES GROUP

For young women at BPA who are interested in participating in a peer support group!

Every Wednesday from 11:40am-12:40pm at BPA

From November 5th, 2025 to April 29th, 2026

**TO REGISTER:
LET MRS. THERIAULT KNOW
YOU ARE INTERESTED!**

For more information:
Contact Bristol Youth Services at
860-314-4690

FACILITATED BY:
RAVEN CODY, LMSW &
ASHANTE MALONE, LMSW

Bristol Youth Services continues to facilitate the 22-week Young Women's Issues Group at Bristol Preparatory Academy with Raven Cody and Ashante Malone, Youth & Family Coordinators, co-facilitating the program. This group is projected to run from November 5th, 2025 to April 29th, 2026. Required paperwork and a flyer have been created and provided to the school to distribute to identified students

A meet and greet has been scheduled for October 22nd in order for program facilitators to introduce themselves and provide an overview of the group, as well as answer any questions students may have.

A tentative curriculum and schedule are being developed, however, is subject to change based on the need of group participants.

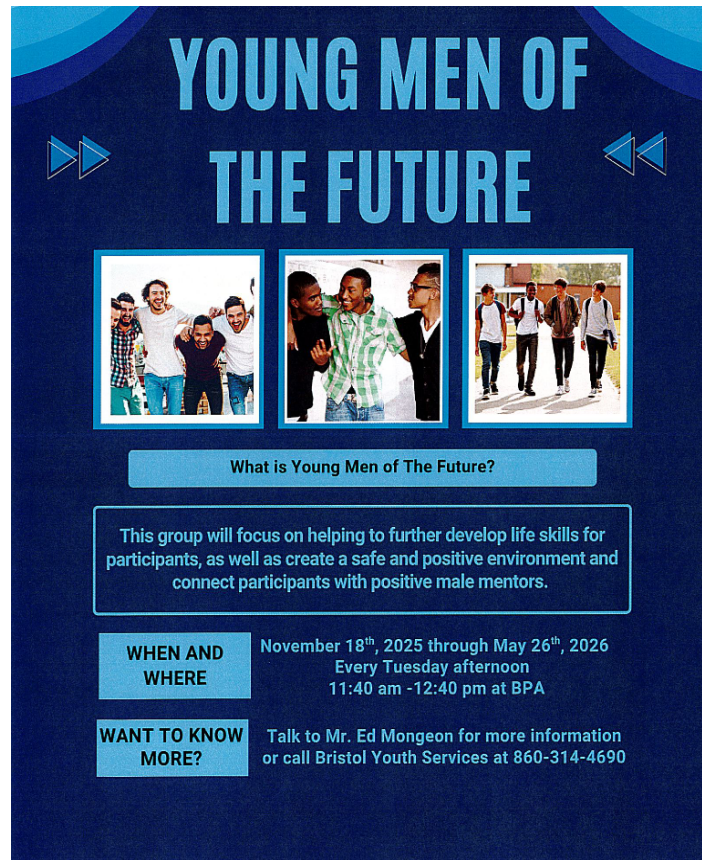
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Young Men of the Future



YOUNG MEN OF THE FUTURE

What is Young Men of The Future?

This group will focus on helping to further develop life skills for participants, as well as create a safe and positive environment and connect participants with positive male mentors.

WHEN AND WHERE November 18th, 2025 through May 26th, 2026
Every Tuesday afternoon
11:40 am -12:40 pm at BPA

WANT TO KNOW MORE? Talk to Mr. Ed Mongeon for more information or call Bristol Youth Services at 860-314-4690

The Young Men of the Future program will be once again facilitated in collaboration with Bristol Prep Academy. The 22-week long program will be facilitated by two Bristol Youth Service contractual workers Qur-an Webb and Anthony Johnson. The program is currently being advertised to students with encouragement from school administration, staff and teachers. Next steps will include facilitators setting up meet and greets, student intakes and program permission slips and letters to parents. The scheduled start date will be Tuesday, November 18th.

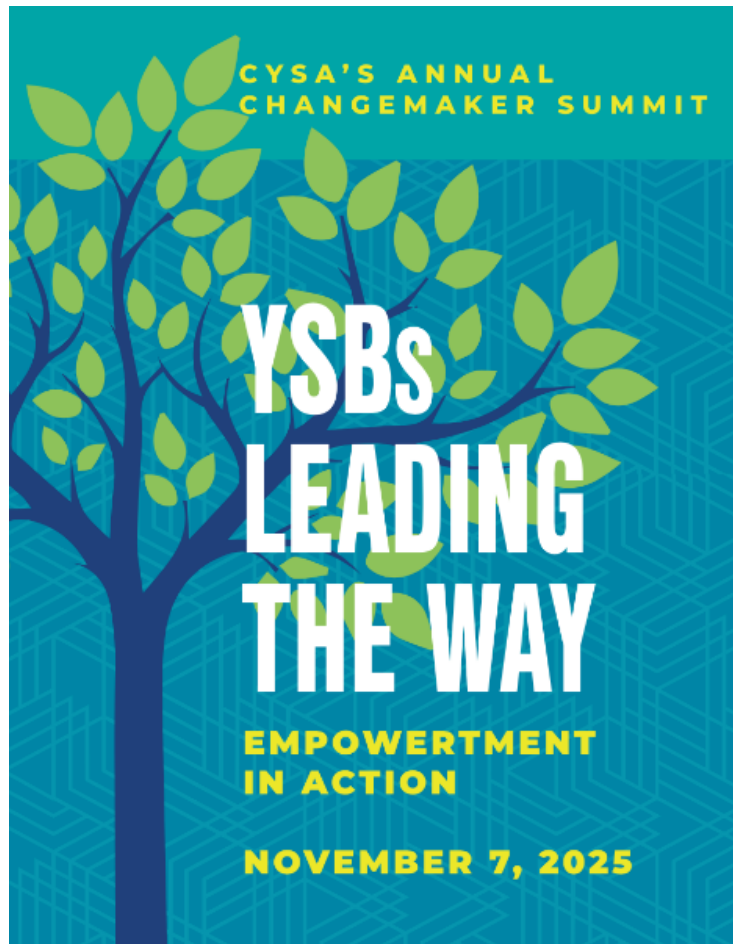
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On Friday November 7th, Bristol Youth Services staff will be attending the Annual CYSA Conference at the Hartford Marriott. This year's theme is Empowerment in Action. At the conference there will be an opportunity to participate in three different breakout sessions with some of the topics covered being: Disaster Mental Health: Supporting your community after a disaster, The Leadership Launchpad: Fueling Our Future Trailblazers, Beyond the Bell: A Creative Approach to a Teen Center Program and Crisis, Courage, and Culture: Understanding Immigrant Youth Mental Health

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BEST – Bristol Eliminating Substance Use Together



- Sustainability Efforts:**
 We are continuing our work on sustainability for our prevention initiatives. As part of this process, we are developing key informant interview questions and identifying individuals to participate. We would love to include a Youth Commissioner as one of the interviewees. Eventually, the interviews will be compiled into a short video highlighting our work and community perspectives.
- Youth Coalition:**
 Our Youth Coalition wrapped up last school year, and several of our members have since graduated. We've begun the recruitment process for new participants. If you know any youth who may be interested, please share their contact information with me so I can reach out directly.
- Community Engagement:**
 BEST tabled at the CCAR event at The Bushnell in downtown Hartford last month. The event was very successful — we made several meaningful connections and are hopeful for future collaborations.
- Vape Disposal Initiative:**
 We're in the planning stages of a vape disposal initiative. We're currently working through the logistics and determining the best approach to roll out the program. Stay tuned for more updates soon.
- Upcoming Presentations and Outreach:**
 BEST will be meeting with the GWAP group in November to discuss vaping and related prevention topics. Additionally, BEST will begin meeting with key stakeholders to emphasize the importance of continuing this work beyond DFC grant funding.

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YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2026 13

ACCOUNTS FOR:	ORIGINAL	TRANFRS/	REVISED			AVAILABLE	PCT
001 GENERAL FUND	APPROP	ADJSTMTS	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	BUDGET	USE/COL
0017025 YOUTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES							
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-432026-		YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU					
	-41,845	0	-41,845	.00	.00	-41,845.00	.0%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-432147-		ENHANCEMENT SERVICES					
	-12,995	0	-12,995	.00	.00	-12,995.00	.0%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-432157-		YOUTH SERVICES SUPPLEMENT					
	-18,385	0	-18,385	.00	.00	-18,385.00	.0%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-450301-		WELFARE EVICTION RECEIPTS					
	-9,000	0	-9,000	.00	.00	-9,000.00	.0%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-514000-		REGULAR WAGES & SALARIES					
	294,025	3,095	297,120	74,317.30	.00	222,802.70	25.0%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-515100-		OVERTIME WAGES & SALARIES					
	4,000	0	4,000	.00	.00	4,000.00	.0%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-515200-		PARTTIME WAGES & SALARIES					
	2,500	0	2,500	1,896.60	.00	603.40	75.9%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-517000-		OTHER WAGES					
	1,700	0	1,700	1,711.44	.00	-11.44	100.7%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-531000-		PROFESSIONAL FEES & SERVICES					
	20,000	0	20,000	1,162.50	6,837.50	12,000.00	40.0%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-531115-		JRB COORDINATION					
	8,225	0	8,225	2,425.00	75.00	5,725.00	30.4%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-531120-		PROJECT AWARE					
	41,845	0	41,845	1,313.70	9,345.00	31,186.30	25.5%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-531135-		ENHANCEMENT SERVICES					
	12,995	0	12,995	2,399.60	194.20	10,401.20	20.0%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-531136-		YOUTH SERVICES SUPPLEMENT					
	18,385	0	18,385	1,402.48	.00	16,982.52	7.6%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-553000-		TELEPHONE					
	700	0	700	167.40	532.60	.00	100.0%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-581120-		CONFERENCES & MEMBERSHIPS					
	1,400	0	1,400	574.75	225.25	600.00	57.1%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-581240-		WELFARE EVICTIONS & AUCTIONS					
	11,000	0	11,000	1,138.00	300.00	9,562.00	13.1%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-581745-		NONREIMBURSEABLE INCIDENTALS					
	2,300	0	2,300	200.00	300.00	1,800.00	21.7%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-587232-		RELOCATION COSTS					
	30,000	0	30,000	342.00	500.00	29,158.00	2.8%
TOTAL YOUTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES	366,850	3,095	369,945	89,050.77	18,309.55	262,584.68	29.0%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	366,850	3,095	369,945	89,050.77	18,309.55	262,584.68	29.0%
TOTAL REVENUES	-82,225	0	-82,225	.00	.00	-82,225.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	449,075	3,095	452,170	89,050.77	18,309.55	344,809.68	

YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2026 13							
	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USE/COL
GRAND TOTAL	366,850	3,095	369,945	89,050.77	18,309.55	262,584.68	29.0%
** END OF REPORT - Generated by Stephen Bynum **							

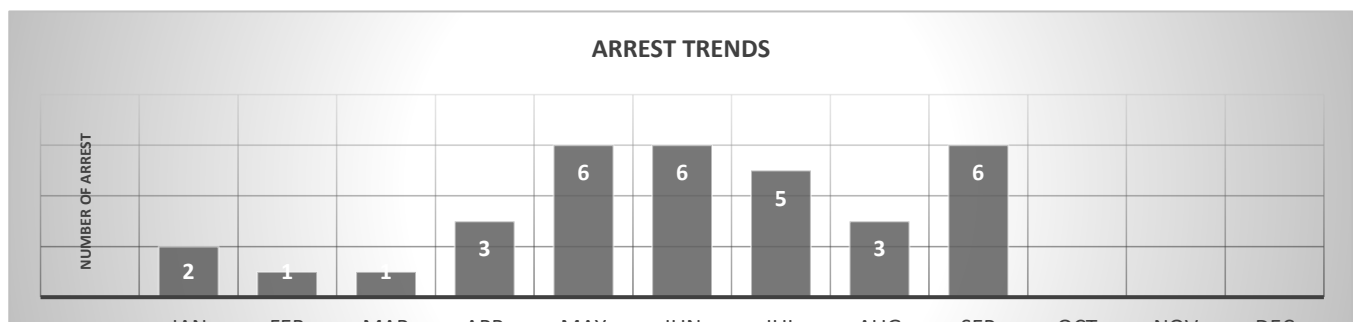
BRISTOL POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community Relations Division

2025 Monthly Juvenile Arrest Report

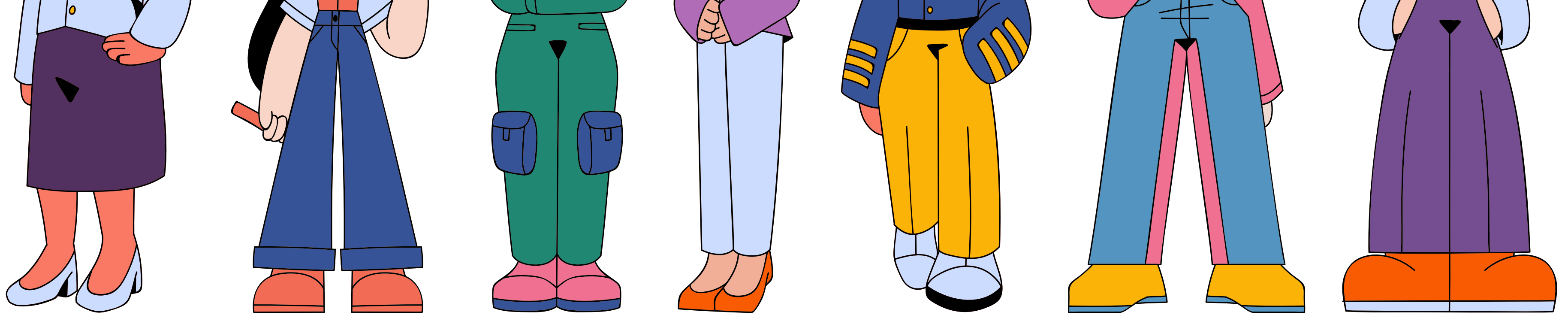
ARREST STATISTICS:	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD TOTAL
TOTAL JUVENILE ARREST	2	1	1	3	6	6	5	3	6				33
JRB REFERRAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
JUVENILE COURT REFERRAL	2	1	1	3	6	6	5	3	6				33
ADULT REFERRAL	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0					3
MALE ARREST	1	1	1	1	6	6	4	3	5				28
FEMALE ARREST	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1				5
REPEAT OFFENDER	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	3				9
MISDEMEANOR CHARGES	2	0	1	3	1	0	2	3	1				13
FELONY CHARGES	0	1	0	0	5	5	3	2	5				21
ALCOHOL OFFENSES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
MARIJUANA OFFENSES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
NARCOTICS OFFENSES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
LARCENY OF M/V	0	0	0	0	3	5	2	1	5				16

AGE & SEX STATISTICS:	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD TOTAL
AGE 8: MALE													0
FEMALE													0
AGE 9: MALE													0
FEMALE													0
AGE 10: MALE													0
FEMALE													0
AGE 11: MALE													0
FEMALE													0
AGE 12: MALE													0
FEMALE				1									1
AGE 13: MALE				1	1				1				3
FEMALE													0
AGE 14: MALE													0
FEMALE	1			1									2
AGE 15: MALE					2	3							5
FEMALE							1		1				2
AGE 16: MALE	1		1		3	1	2	1	4				13
FEMALE													0
AGE 17: MALE		1			1	2	2	2					8
FEMALE													0



JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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PREPARED BY: Lt. Eric Hanson



EMERGING NICOTINE & VAPING TRENDS

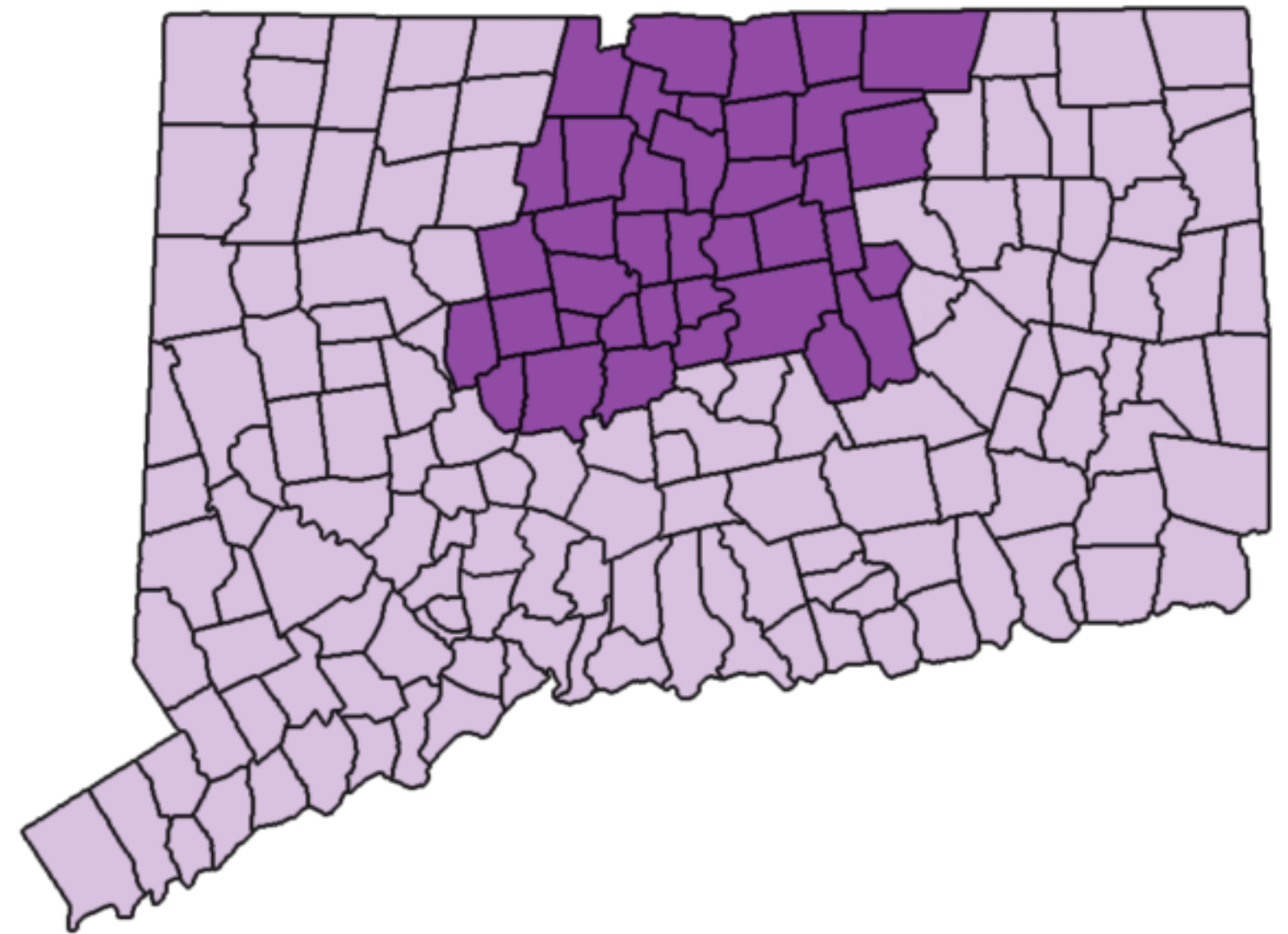
Erin Osterhoudt, Certified Prevention Specialist
Vaping Prevention Coordinator





Amplify, Inc. is one of Connecticut's five **Regional Behavioral Health Action Organizations (RBHAOs)**.

- Serves as the **local planning and resource hub** for behavioral health, prevention, and recovery across North Central Connecticut.
- **Data-driven:** collects, analyzes, and shares local data to identify trends, set priorities, and guide prevention strategies.
- Works with communities, schools, coalitions, and providers to build coordinated, evidence-based responses.
- Focus areas include **substance use prevention, mental health promotion, problem gambling awareness, and suicide prevention.**



Funded by the CT Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS).

TODAY'S AGENDA

01

Current Trends

03

Community
Response

05

Disposal

02

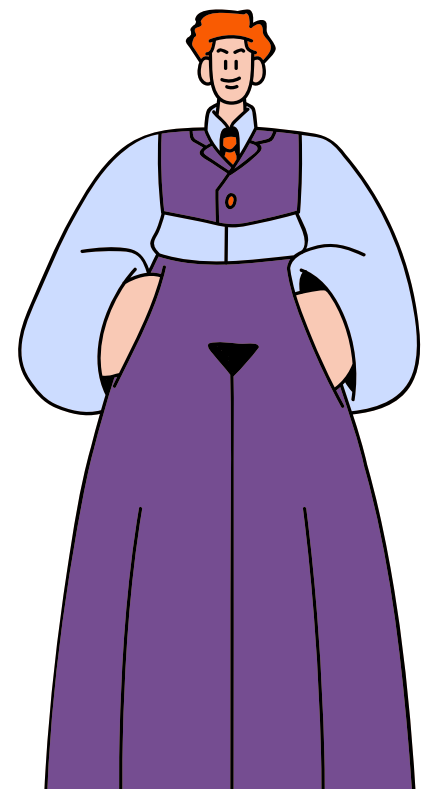
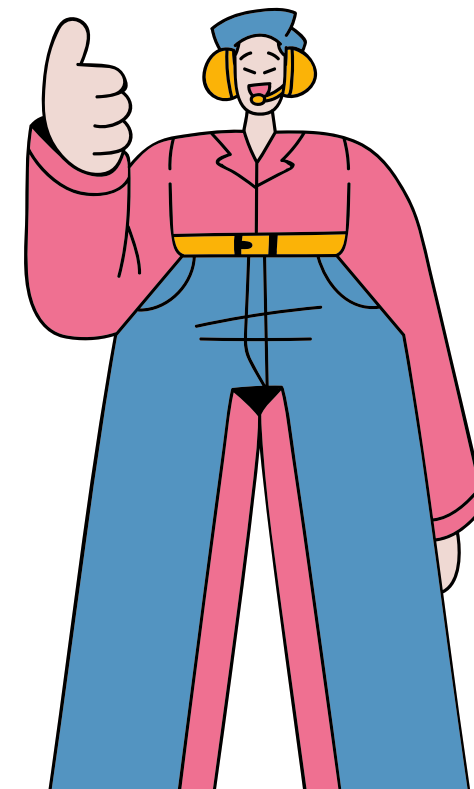
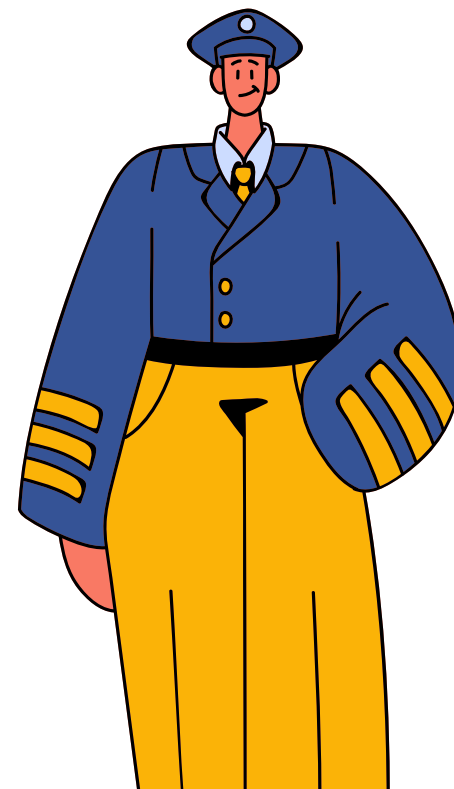
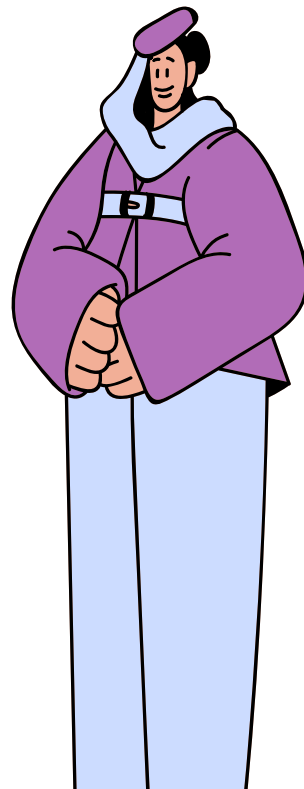
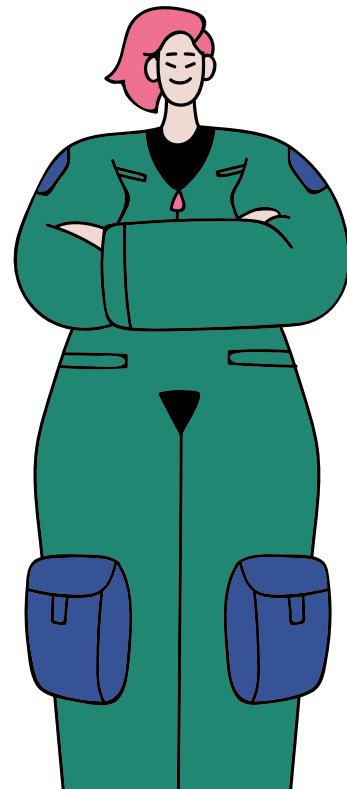
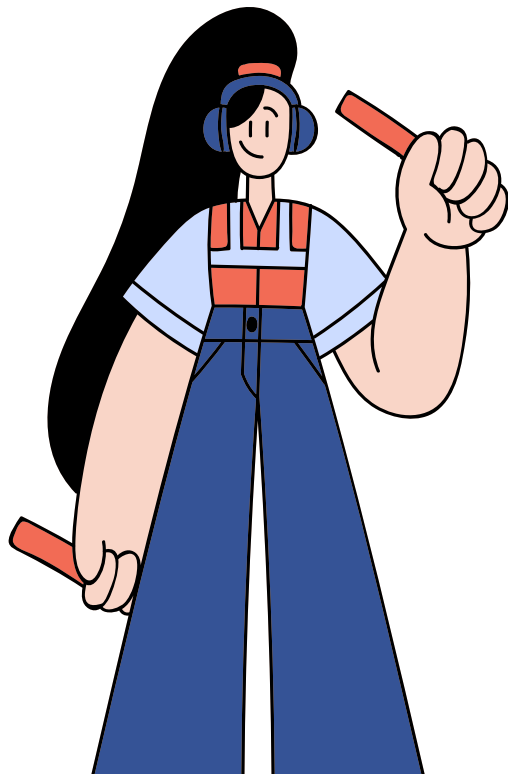
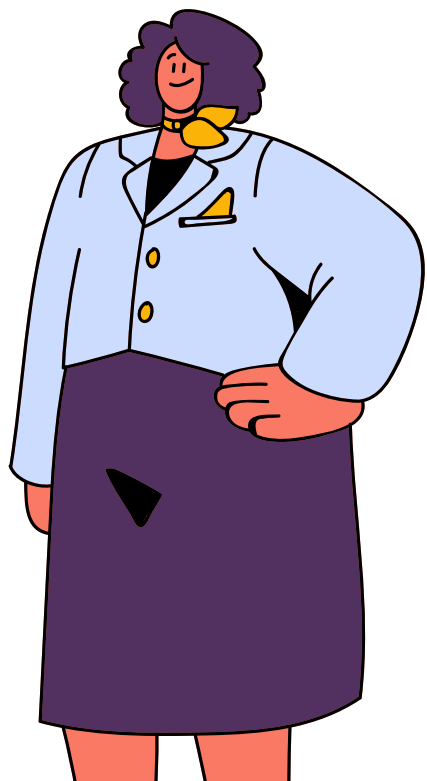
Youth Targeting

04

Talking with
Youth

06

Resources



VAPING OVERVIEW

The Basics

- Vapes or e-cigs are electronic vapor products that are used to consume nicotine, cannabis and other drugs through inhalation
- Also called ENDS, pens, mods, JUUL, tanks, disposables, etc.
- Often come in different flavors, shapes, and sizes
- Contain many harmful, cancer-causing chemicals
- You must be 21 to purchase and consume e-cigs and associated products



Current Data

- Youth vaping is steadily **declining** in Connecticut:
 - High school past 30-day use dropped from 27% in 2019 to 11% in 2021, and held at 12% in 2023.
 - Regional data (2023–2024) shows even lower rates, with just 4% of middle and high school students reporting recent use.

This shows that our efforts in prevention are working!

CURRENT TRENDS

What are we seeing in Connecticut?

- **Disposable vapes** are now more popular than refillable pods, because they're cheap, colorful, and easy to hide.
- **Nicotine pouches**, like Zyn, are growing in use because they don't produce smoke or vapor, so students think they are safer and are easier to hide.
- **High-nicotine pods** have become more concentrated, which increases addiction potential.
- **Flavored products** are still a big draw (especially fruit, candy, and "ice" flavors) and can be commonly found in non-compliant retail stores.



HOW VAPE COMPANIES TARGET YOUTH

Vaping companies are very strategic in targeting youth. It's important to recognize these tactics so students can see that they are being marketed to intentionally.

FLAVORS



DESIGN



SOCIAL MEDIA



PRODUCT PLACEMENT



LOCAL & REGIONAL RESPONSE

Other towns in CT are taking creative approaches to respond to youth vaping and nicotine use.



School Policies

- American Lung Association: Vape Free Schools Initiative
- Alternative to Suspension Programs
- Vaping Education and Tobacco Cessation Programs



Community Efforts

- Legislative Forums
- Social Media Campaigns
- Parent Cafes
- Screenagers
- Vaping Quit Kits
- VapeFreeCT
- Free Print Materials
- Share Info & Resources



Peer-to-Peer Initiatives

- Youth Leadership Councils
- Peer Advocacy
- Youth Voice Matters!
- Youth-led Campaigns
- Youth-led Education



Regional Cannabis & Vaping Workgroup

Join us at our next RCVW where passionate community members like you come together to address concerns and solve problems related to vaping & cannabis in our region.

TALKING WITH YOUTH ABOUT VAPING

Curiosity Over Confrontation

Ask youth what they know and where they heard it. This opens dialogue **without judgment**.

Correct Myths Gently

For example, even vapes advertised as “nicotine free” have been found to have large amounts of nicotine in them – because **vape products are so unregulated**.

Focus on Immediate Impacts

Money spent, sports performance, and short-term health effects often **resonate more** than long-term risks.

Empowerment Frame

Remind youth that companies profit by hooking teens, and **they have the power** to make choices that protect their health.

THE ISSUE ON VAPE DISPOSAL

In Connecticut, vape disposal has become a serious issue because the devices combine several hazards: **lithium-ion batteries**, **toxic nicotine residue**, and **non-biodegradable plastics and metals**.

Connecticut passed a law in July 2024 making it illegal to throw out single-use and rechargeable batteries in household trash. The issue with this law is **that no hazardous waste facilities currently accept vape batteries**, leaving very limited options for safe disposal.



Vaping Unveiled

E-Cigarettes and Eco-Consequences

Prevention - Health - Waste Management

Join us for a community discussion about e-cigarettes, their impact on health, the serious effects they pose to the environment, and what you can do to take action.

This event is free and open to the public - [register here today!](#)



**Tuesday
September 30
9am - 1pm**
(8am - 9am: registration, networking, and coffee)

**Legislative Office
Building Room 1D**
300 Capitol Ave #5100
Hartford, CT

Visit the event page at hrra.org/vapes
For more information, reach out to Kathy Hanley at khanley@wctcoalition.org

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAM

CT'S FREE TOBACCO CESSATION RESOURCES

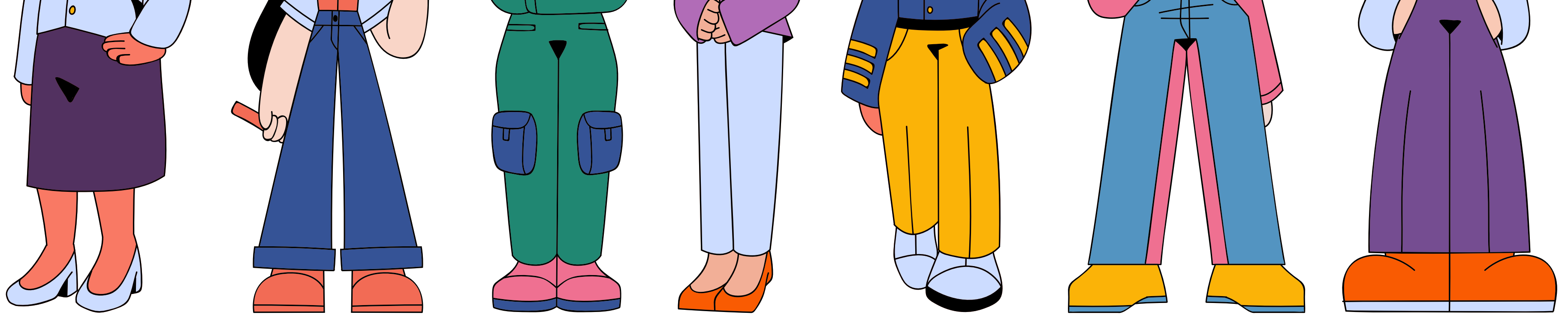
			
Service	CT Quitline operated by National Jewish Health*	My Life My Quit™ operated by National Jewish Health*	This is Quitting operated by Truth Initiative*
Website	committoquitCT.com	vapefreeCT.org	
Cost	FREE!		
Ages	18 and over	13 to 17*	13 to 24
Call	1-800-QUIT-NOW	1-855-891-9989	Not available
Text	Optional with enrollment	START MY QUIT to 36072	VAPEFREECT to 88709 or DEJELOCT to 88709
Coaching	Live support by phone or online chat.	Live support by text, online chat, or phone.	Automated support by text.
Hours	24 hours a day / 7 days a week		
Duration	5 coaching sessions**	5 coaching sessions**	60 days or more
Medications	Patch, gum, lozenge**	Not available	Not available
Service Success	Evidence shows that counseling services significantly increase your chances of a successful quit compared to trying to quit on your own.		



Go to our webpage to find tons of helpful resources for:

- Youth
- Parents
- Prevention Professionals
- Schools
- Everyone!

www.AmplifyCT.org/vaping-resources



Erin Osterhoudt, Certified Prevention Specialist
Vaping Prevention Coordinator

Email: eosterhoudt@amplifyct.org
Phone: 860-267-5439

THANK YOU!

Holiday Gift Giving Program

The Annual Holiday Gift Giving Program provides gift assistance to eligible Bristol youth and families during the holiday season.

Get Involved

Looking for Assistance?

[Income eligible families must apply to receive holiday assistance by Monday, December 8th.](#)

Eligibility information and applications are available at www.BristolRec.com and at the BPRYCS Main Office at 51 High St.

Sponsor A Child or Family

Make the holidays a little more merry and bright by sponsoring one or more local youth and/or families! Sponsors are provided a profile on participants that includes special interest, sizing, and demographic information for shopping guidance.

Monetary Contributions

For those with no time or desire to shop, we also accept monetary donations to purchase gifts on your behalf. Donations can be made payable to Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services and mailed or dropped off to the BPRYCS Main Office (51 High St.), attn: Holiday Gift Giving Program.

Donate a Gift or Gift Card

Donate a new unwrapped gift for a Bristol child up to 18 years of age!

How to donate a gift:

- Beginning Monday, November 3rd, [drop off a donation](#) at one of the collection boxes stationed around Bristol:
 - Bristol City Hall (111 N. Main St.)
 - Bristol Public Library (5 High St.)
 - Bristol Fire Department (Each Station)
 - Dennis Malone Aquatic Center (325 Mix St.)
 - BPRYCS Office (51 High St.)
- [Help us "Stuff-A-Cruiser"](#) on Saturday, November 8th at the Bristol Walmart from 10 AM to 2 PM in partnership with the Bristol Police Department!
- [Give a Gift Card!](#) Gift cards allow youth to make their own shopping decisions, offer great flexibility & empower independence!

For more information and/or if you, your family, your company, or community group would like to be involved please visit www.BristolRec.com or reach out to Community Services Coordinator, Aubrey Minkler, at (860) 314 -4690 or AubreyMinkler@bristolct.gov.



Bristol
Eliminating
Substance Use
Together

STUFF-A-CRUISER

TO BENEFIT
THE CITY OF BRISTOL'S HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING PROGRAM

Saturday, November 8, 2025

at **Walmart**  in Bristol (1400 Farmington Ave.)

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

The Bristol Police Department and the Department of Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services are asking for your help to "Stuff-A-Cruiser" full of new and unwrapped toys for Bristol youth up to 18 years of age. All donations benefit local Bristol families in need of assistance this holiday season.

For more information, please
visit www.BristolRec.com or
call (860) 314 - 4690



Benefiting Youth & Families
Living Directly in Bristol

Collecting New & Unwrapped
Toys for Youth Ages 0 - 18

Holiday Gift Giving Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

What is the Holiday Gift Giving Program?

The Annual Holiday Gift Giving Program provides assistance to eligible Bristol youth and families during the holiday season. In 2023, the program supported over 624 youth up to 18 years of age from over 499 families in Bristol with the help of 40 local sponsors and hundreds of individual donations. The City of Bristol Department of Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services (BPRYCS) partners with individuals, families, organizations, businesses, and community members to sponsor, donate, and support local youth in need of support this holiday season. Eligible participants receive new toys and wrapping supplies.

Who receives the donations?

- Donations collected during the Holiday Gift Giving Program are distributed to income eligible FAMILIES LIVING DIRECTLY IN BRISTOL, who complete and meet the requirements noted in the Assistance Application.

How can I contribute?

There are a number of ways community members may contribute to the Holiday Gift Giving Program:

- **Sponsor a Child or Family**
 - Individuals and groups are invited to sponsor local youth and families in need of assistance. Sponsors are provided a profile on participating youth that includes age, gender, clothing size, and special interests for shopping guidance.
- **Donate a New or Unwrapped Toy**
 - **Collection Drop Boxes around Bristol**
 - Drop off a new and unwrapped toy at any one of the ongoing collection sites located amongst Bristol's local businesses. Visit one of the Fire Houses or City Hall!
 - **Attend the "Stuff-A-Cruiser" Toy Drive in partnership with the Bristol Police Department**
 - Saturday, November 8, 2025 | 10 AM to 2 PM | Bristol Walmart (1400 Farmington Avenue)
 - The City of Bristol Police Department (BPD) will be stationed outside of Walmart for "Stuff-A-Cruiser" with the goal of filling Police cruisers with new and unwrapped toys to benefit the program.

- **Donate \$\$ or Gift Cards**

Don't know what to donate but you want to give back to the local community? Donate via cash, check, or gift card and allow the BPRYCS staff to do the shopping for you!

- **Gift Cards**
 - Teens and tweens LOVE gift cards! Gift Cards are a great way to donate to local youth/teens as it allows them to make their own shopping decisions, empowers them to be independent and offers great flexibility. Think local business, eateries, or their favorite place to hang out!
 - Examples: Starbucks, Chipotle, Pure Foods, SpareTime Entertainment, Walmart, Roblox, 5Below
- **Cash/Check donations**
 - Cash/check donations in any amount are also accepted and can be designated to the Holiday Giving Program to supplement donations and serve more youth. Please be sure to indicate your designation of the gift with your mailed donation.
 - Checks can be made payable to: Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services.
 - What address should I use when mailing gift cards or cash donations?

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services
ATTN: Holiday Program
51 High Street
Bristol, CT 06010

Holiday Gift Giving Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Are there any gift restrictions?

- We ask that all gifts are new and unwrapped please!

Can I deliver presents directly to the children I sponsor?

- Unfortunately, in an effort to preserve participant privacy, we do not allow donors and/or sponsors to deliver directly to program recipients.

How do I apply for assistance through the Holiday Gift Giving Program?

- To receive assistance through the Holiday Gift Giving Program you must complete the Assistance Application. Applications are available at the BPRYCS Main Office (51 High St.) or online at www.BristolRec.com. As part of the application, you will be asked to provide income verification, proof of address, and a Birth Certificate for participating children. Completed applications should be returned to the BPRYCS Main Office (51 High St.). BPRYCS will then contact other local agencies providing support this holiday season to avoid duplication - we appreciate your understanding.
- **What if I can't find the Birth Certificate for my child?**
 - You can provide a Baptismal Certificate or School Verification or other document which identifies child's birth date and you as their parent or guardian. This could be a letter from the school or from church or from the health system.
- **What can be used as income verification?**
 - Applicants may provide pay stubs from wages and or a statement of benefits received from unemployment, social security, child support, DSS, or verification from a referring agency.
- **What can be used as proof of address?**
 - The easiest way to provide proof of address is with a piece of postmarked mail. However, applicants may provide proof of address via Property Tax Receipt, Utility Bills, Lease Agreement or mortgage statement, Insurance Card, Voter Registration Card, Education Enrollment Papers, Bank or credit card statement, or insurance policy or bill.

How is the BPRYCS Holiday Gift Giving Program different from other holiday assistance programs?

- The BPRYCS Holiday Gift Giving Program solely serves youth and families living in Bristol! While we love the greater community, our efforts are focused on our neighbors and those closest who need our help. It is also the only local program serving Bristol youth ages 13 to 18 during the holidays! Bristol's teens deserves holiday cheer and to be included.

How long does the program run for?

- The Holiday Gift Giving Program launches on November 4, 2024 and runs through December 19, 2024.
 - **November**
 - 11/3 - Program Launch
 - Assistance Applications Open (4-week window to apply)
 - Collection Drop Boxes Available around Bristol
 - BPRYCS - Community Call to Action
 - 11/8- "Stuff-A-Cruiser" with the Bristol Police Dept.
 - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
 - Bristol Walmart (1400 Farmington Ave.)
 - **December**
 - 12/8 - Referral Deadline and Assistance Applications Close
 - 12/11 - Donation Drop Boxes Collected
 - All Donations Dropped Off at BPRYCS in Preparation for Final Distribution
 - 12/15 - 12/17 - Participant Pickup & Recipient Distribution
 - 12/18 - Recipient Distribution Ends and all Donations Picked Up



Holiday Gift Giving Program

PARTNER WITH US

SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY

The City of Bristol is committed to building relationships with local businesses, and your role as a sponsor and partner is vital to the well-being, livability, and vitality of our City and region. BPRYCS' picturesque parks and unforgettable experiences provide the perfect occasion for you to become involved and interact with the public. BPRYCS offers expansive events, activities and services, and there is truly something presented for every age, ability, and interest to attract new customers and build brand loyalty. We invite you to become a part of our team so together we can continue to make the City of Bristol the most desirable place to live, work, and play!

CONTACT INFO

Aubrey Minkler, Community Services Coordinator

Office: (860) 314 - 4690

Email: AubreyMinkler@bristolct.gov

51 High Street, Bristol, CT 06010

IMPACT IN 2023

Thank you to all of the donors, sponsors, partners, and the entire community for a successful 2022 Holiday Gift Giving Program!



Thank You!

Holiday Gift Giving Program

PARTNER WITH US

PROMOTIONAL BENEFITS

Marketing and promotional exposure vary depending on level of support.

General Promotional Benefits

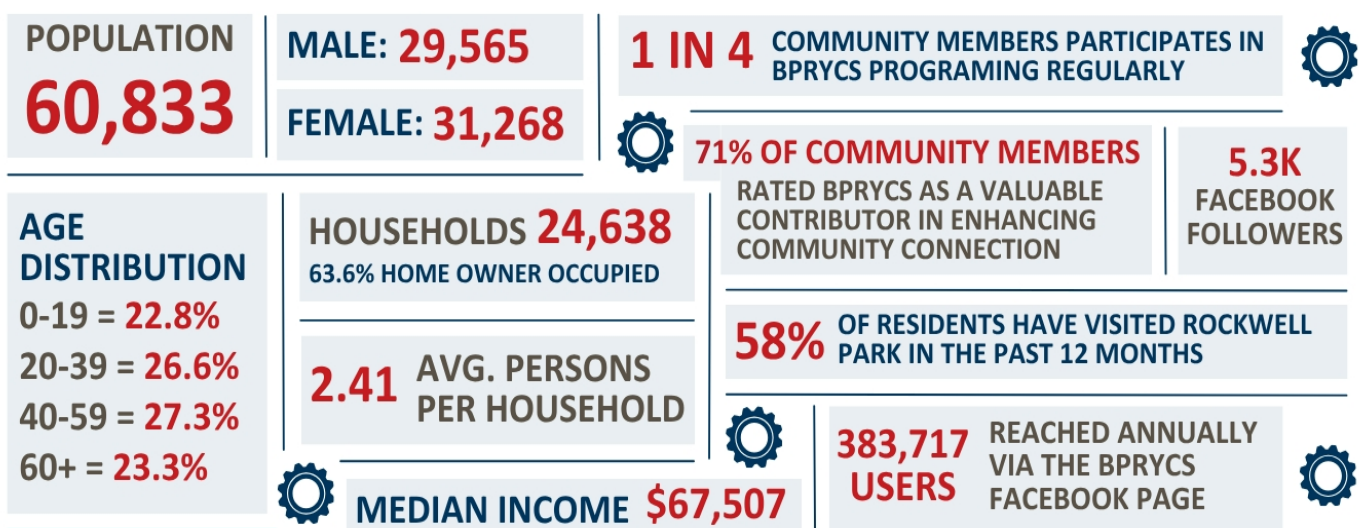
- BPRYCS weekly newsletters, reaching over 12,000 readers per issue
- Website and social media reaching over 25,000 community members monthly
- 28% of the Bristol Community is engaged in BPRYCS programming or services on an annual basis
- BPRYCS operates an average of 70 different programs and activities each season
- BPRYCS hosted over 400 community events from 2021 to 2022 (Size range: 15 to 3000 people)
- Flyers distributed throughout the community & within the city's 13 schools via the City of Bristol's electronic backpack system.

Quick Facts

City of Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services is one of the most active parks and recreation programs in the Hartford metropolitan area:

- 730 acres of active and passive recreational areas
- 20 different courts, athletic facilities, and park spaces
- Bristol's parks date back to 1911, creating a longstanding sense of community in the City

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT



Sources: 2020 American Community Survey (ACS) Decennial Census & the 2020 ETC Master Plan Report

BPRYCS MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the City of Bristol Department of Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services to deliver high-quality services and facilities that enhance the community's quality of life, meet the diverse needs of all citizens, and build a sustainable future.



Holiday Gift Giving Program

Toy Collection Boxes Located at Bristol Fire Department

Collecting new and unwrapped toys for Bristol youth up to 18 years of age.

Headquarters, Engine Co. 1

181 N. Main St. Bristol, CT 06010

Engine Company 5

285 Mix St. Bristol, CT 06010

Engine Company 4 & Training Facility

17 Vincent P. Kelly Rd. Bristol, CT 06010

Engine Company 3

81 Church Ave. Forestville, CT 06010

Engine Company 2

151 Hill St. Bristol, CT 06010