



Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA)

SAPCA IS an alliance of parents, youth, schools, city health and recreation agencies, media, nonprofits, businesses, policymakers and law enforcement whose **MISSION** is to engage diverse sectors of the community in collaborative, cross-cultural and comprehensive substance abuse prevention efforts that result in a reduction of underage substance use and abuse in the City of Alexandria.

WHY? Because recent surveys present a disturbing picture of youth substance use in Alexandria, with alcohol, marijuana and tobacco use by some groups of middle and high school youth **exceeding national rates.**¹:

- Alcohol:
 - 44% of middle school youth have tried alcohol, and in high school, current heavy alcohol use for white and black youth exceeds national rates.
 - In SAPCA focus groups, many youth said, “everyone drinks alcohol.”²
- Marijuana:
 - Approximately 1/3 of high school youth have tried marijuana at some time in their lifetime, and approximately 20% are current users.
 - Use by middle school Hispanic and black youth exceeds national rates.
 - In SAPCA focus groups, many youth said, “life is boring without weed.”²
- Tobacco:
 - 15% of high school youth report having smoked a cigarette in the past month.

Only 47% of youth would probably or definitely talk to their parents if they had an important concern about drugs, alcohol or another serious issue.

WHO? SAPCA was created in 2007 as part of the *Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria* (<http://www.alexhealth.org/partnership>). Mayor William D. Euille is SAPCA’s honorary chair. Current SAPCA members include parents and students, representatives from ACPS, Alexandria’s Health Department, Recreation Department, Police Department, Sheriff’s Office, Commonwealth Attorney’s Office, volunteer groups, Community Services Board, Inova Hospital and the media. SAPCA is a member of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA).

WHAT? SAPCA has:

- Received a 5-year SAMHSA Drug Free Communities grant totaling \$602,930, which funds a coalition coordinator and a range of prevention activities in the Alexandria community.
- Released the Substance Abuse Prevention Plan for Alexandria and the Qualitative Assessment of Alexandria Youth Substance Use Report in collaboration with George Mason University (GMU).
- Organized a community-wide *Sticker Shock/Know the Law* campaign that placed “Stop” stickers on beer cases and other alcohol products in more than 50 Alexandria stores.
- Made presentations on youth substance abuse prevention topics to groups throughout the City.

GET INVOLVED by becoming a SAPCA member! Contact noraine.buttar@alexandriava.gov.

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Chair, Allen Lomax at aclomax@aol.com or 703-578-3054.

¹ Data are from 2006-07 surveys of ACPS students in the 7th through 12th grades. See full reports of the *Search Institute Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behavior* survey and the *Youth Risk Behavior Survey* at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/mes/reports/index.php>.

² Substance Abuse Prevention Plan for Alexandria, Jerome Short, PhD, et al., George Mason University, September 30, 2008.



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Are you concerned about teen substance abuse in Alexandria?

If so, become a SAPCA member!

SAPCA members are parents, youth, teachers, counselors, police officers, attorneys, health professionals, policymakers, business people, journalists, concerned citizens and others who want to PREVENT TEEN SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN ALEXANDRIA.

As a SAPCA member, you can:

- Participate in SAPCA's prevention efforts.
- Access speakers who can make presentations about substance abuse at your business or organization.
- Participate in SAPCA's ongoing community assessment and strategic planning processes.
- Attend quarterly SAPCA meetings where you can help develop and facilitate strategies to effectively address youth substance abuse in Alexandria.
- Serve on a SAPCA committee to implement strategies to effectively address youth substance abuse in Alexandria (strategic planning, communications, education, law enforcement, etc.).
- Receive the Youth Topics weekly e-newsletter, filled with the latest local, regional, state & national youth-focused training, trends, research, funding, resources and events with a special focus on substance abuse prevention.

Yes! I want to join SAPCA [please print]:

Name _____

Street: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address: _____

How I'd like to be involved: _____

How do you identify yourself (check all that apply):

- Parent Student Member of Religious Community
- Member of Business Community Member of the Media School Staff
- Youth Service Provider Member of Fraternal or Sororal Organization
- Member of Civic or Volunteer Group Healthcare Professional
- City Staff in Substance Abuse Field Volunteer or Staff of Other Organization Involved in Reducing Substance Abuse
- Member of Law Enforcement
- Concerned Citizen Other: _____

Please mail or email this form to:

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