

Press Release

Alexandria's Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition Seeks Community Opinions about Youth Substance Abuse in the City

Online surveys available for parents, youth and five other community sectors

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The Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA) invites youth (6th – 12th grades) and adults who live in the City of Alexandria or work with Alexandria youth to complete a short online survey that asks for perceptions and opinions about youth substance abuse in our community. Incentives are provided for youth participants, and adult survey participants have access to recent statistics on youth substance abuse in Alexandria.

Community members are asked to complete one of the following seven questionnaires, which are all available at alexandriava.gov/sapcasurvey and can be completed in about 10-15 minutes:

- Youth survey: for youth in grades 6-12 who live in the City of Alexandria
- Parent survey: for parents of school-age (K-12) children who live in the City of Alexandria
- Business survey: for owners and managers of businesses, nonprofits and associations in the City of Alexandria
- Law enforcement survey: for employees of the Alexandria Police Department and Sheriff's office
- Youth service provider survey: for youth service providers (including teachers and school staff) who work in the City of Alexandria
- Faith community survey: for faith community leaders and/or coordinators of youth programming for faith communities in the City of Alexandria
- Community survey: for any adult who lives in the City of Alexandria who doesn't fit in one of the other categories

The online survey research is part of a comprehensive community assessment that SAPCA is conducting in collaboration with George Mason University in order to determine the extent of youth substance abuse in the City, including use and abuse of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs. Survey results will inform SAPCA's future efforts to address youth substance abuse in Alexandria. The deadline for completing the surveys is July 31, 2008.

SAPCA is an alliance of parents, youth, schools, City departments, 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 activities that result in a reduction of underage substance use and abuse in the City of Alexandria. 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. SAPCA is a member of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA).

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