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# SCARY STATISTICS



**9.4%**  
OF YOUTHS WERE DRUG USERS IN 2014 COMPARED TO 6.3% IN 2009.



**8.7 MILLION**  
UNDERAGED PEOPLE (Aged 12 to 20) REPORTED DRINKING ALCOHOL IN THE LAST MONTH



**4% DECREASE**  
IN EXPOSURE TO SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION MESSAGES IN SCHOOLS FROM 2002 TO 2009



**OVER 1 MILLION**  
ADOLESCENTS USE PILLS FOR NONMEDICAL PURPOSES



**7.4%**  
OF ADOLESCENTS AGED 12 TO 17 WERE CURRENT USERS OF MARIJUANA IN 2014

Source: SAMHSA, 2014 National Health Survey on Drug Use and Health (Sept. 2015)

## Your Challenge:

“As we fought in the trenches in past wars, we are now needed to join America in a new challenge — the war against alcohol and drug abuse. And it is a War — the battlefields are in our homes, schools, and workplaces. It threatens the very fiber of American family life.

However, this war will be fought without guns. Instead, we will win the battle against substance abuse by educating our youth and offering support to our families through the AADAA program. This program will serve as a tool to communicate, inspire, and motivate your Post to act as a clearinghouse for information and support for those in need.”

-PNC Ted Leszkiewicz

WARNING: It is important to remember that the AADAA program should act as simply a resource center for information on chemical dependency.

We are NOT licensed counselors or consultants.

Our purpose is to direct people in need to the correct resources on the subject of chemical dependency and recovery.

AMVETS National Headquarters  
Attn: Programs Department  
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[www.amvets.org](http://www.amvets.org)

## Keeping America's Youth Drug Free

# AMVETS



# Against

# Drug &

# Alcohol

# Abuse



# The Competition

## Youth Awareness Program

Every year, AMVETS holds a contest for students in grades K-12 intended to raise awareness about substance abuse and prevention.

### Themes:

2015-2016: Be Smart...Don't Start

2016-2017: Stop Abuse...Don't Use

2017-2018: Be a Winner, Be Drug Free

2018-2019: There is no use for Drug Abuse

2019-2020: Be Smart...Don't Start

Judges will take into consideration *adherence to the theme, originality, literary construction and legibility.*

Deadline: National entries must be received by **July 1**. Local and state deadlines vary.

# CONTEST CATEGORIES

## Grades

## Contest Media

K-2  
3-5  
6-8  
9-12

Poster  
Poster  
Story or Poem  
Story or Poem

# NATIONAL AWARDS

## VISA GIFT CARDS

GRADE	1ST	2ND	3RD
K-2	\$75	\$50	\$25
3-5	\$100	\$75	\$50
6-8	\$125	\$75	\$50
9-12	\$200	\$75	\$50

# POSTER GUIDELINES

- ★ Entries must be 9" x 12" using construction paper or poster board.
- ★ Entries must be drawn freehand using pen, pencil, crayon, paint, or any combination of these media. A straight edge may be used.
- ★ Description of the poster must be written or attached on the back of the poster in 50 words or less.

# ESSAY/POEM GUIDELINES

- ★ All stories/poems may be written in blue or black ink or typed.
- ★ All entries must address the theme
- ★ Essays submitted by 6th through 8th grade must be 250 words or less
- ★ Essays submitted by 9th through 12th grade students must be 350 words or less

# Our Commitment

## Community Awareness Program

In an effort to promote community-level education programs and to act as a referral service to the citizenry, the AADAA program encourages local AMVETS Posts to work with and support existing community programs.

### GOALS:

- ⇒ Support prevention programs within the local school districts.
- ⇒ Encourage the development of programs that foster self-esteem and coping skills among students.
- ⇒ Educate and inform the community about the problems of chemical dependency.
- ⇒ Make facilities available for community groups conducting awareness programs.
- ⇒ Monitor laws and regulations that affect the community in its ability to respond to the care and treatment of chemically dependent.

**As a community, we want to ensure that children grow safely into adulthood without the burdens caused by alcohol and other drug related issues.**