



Office of the Leader of the Opposition

Message from the Leader of the Opposition Andrew Holness, M.P. For Drug Abuse Month

Drug Abuse month provides our Nation with an important opportunity to pay tribute to the tragic losses attributed to substance abuse and to highlight the important preventative measures taken to stem the use of abusive substances and methods. Substance use, including underage drinking and the non-medical use of prescription and over-the-counter medications, significantly affects the health and well-being of our Nation's youth and young adults. The preventative measures used can increase a person's chances of living a longer, healthier, and more productive life.

Every day, we witness our youths engaging in the use of alcohol and drugs and we have often, especially of lately observed the abuse of these substances at parties and on the social media network. From diminished achievement in our schools, to greater risks on our roads and in our communities, to the heartache of lives cut tragically short, the consequences of substance abuse are profound. Yet, we also know that they are preventable. This month, we pay tribute to all those working to prevent substance abuse in our communities, and we rededicate ourselves to building a safer, drug-free Nation.

By stopping drug use before it starts, we can prevent the disease of addiction and create a stronger society across our country. Prevention is at the heart of our National Drug Control Strategy. We have invested in outreach programs that empower our youths with the facts about substance abuse. We have also worked to develop a nationwide, community-based prevention system that joins stakeholders at every level of government with local organizations that can deliver solutions.

We can all play a role in preventing drug and alcohol abuse. Teachers, parents and guardians can further help with the promotion of preventative measures by talking to their children about the dangers of substance abuse. Alongside them, faith-based groups, health care providers, law enforcement officials, and other local leaders must join together to address substance abuse in their communities. As we observe Drug Abuse Prevention Month, let us join in those vital efforts and reaffirm our vision for a Nation where each of us has the fullest opportunity to live in health and happiness.

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