



American Drug Testing

Drug-Free Workplace Programs

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DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE ADVISOR

AN ONGOING SERIES TO PROTECT YOUR COMPANY BY HELPING TO KEEP DRUGS OUT OF YOUR WORKPLACE.

Survey: Most Drug/Alcohol Abusers Work Full Time

Survey Shows Most Drug and Alcohol Abusers Work Full-Time, Are More Likely to Work For Employers That Do Not Test

A link between the absence of employer substance abuse testing and the incidence of abusing employees in the workforce appears to emerge from a study recently released by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration ("SAMHSA"), a division of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The results of a nationwide survey conducted in 2002-2004 concerning workplace substance abuse issues, entitled "Worker Substance Use and Workplace Policies and Programs," was based on data



collected from a sample of 128,000 people employed full-time, ages 18 to 64, who par-

"...most of the nation's approximately 16.4 million drug users hold full-time jobs"

ticipated in SAMHSA's National Survey on Drug Use and Health. The survey, released on July 16, 2007, underscores the fact that use of illicit drugs and alcohol in the workplace is widespread. Some of the survey's more significant highlights for employers include the following:

- Most of the nation's approximately 16.4 million current illicit drug users and approximately 15 million heavy alcohol users hold full-time jobs.
- Current drug users were more likely to work for employers who did not conduct drug or alcohol testing.
- Highest rates of current illicit drug use were among food service workers (17.4%), construction workers (15.1%),

and arts, design, entertainment, sports and media employees (12.4%).

- Highest rates of current heavy alcohol use were found among construction, mining, excavation and drilling workers (17.8%), installation, maintenance and repair workers (14.7%), and food service workers (12.1%).

• Illicit drug use and heavy alcohol use are associated with higher levels of absenteeism and frequent job changes. For example, nearly twice as many current illicit drug users skipped one or more days of work in the past month compared with workers who did not abuse drugs. Drug users were also far more likely to report missing two or more days of work in the past month due to illness or injury compared with workers who did not abuse drugs. Substance abusers had high job turnover rates. Among full-time workers who reported current illicit drug use, 12.3% said they had worked for three or more employers in the last year, compared with 5.1% of non-abusing workers.

Other Notable Statistics Concerning Workplace Drug Policies

Full-time employees who were surveyed reported that:

- 78.7% worked for em-

ployers who had a written policy addressing drug and alcohol use.

- 42.9% worked for employers who conduct pre-employment drug testing.
 - 29.6% worked for employers who conduct random drug testing.
 - 58.4% worked for employers who offered an Employee Assistance Plan.
 - 43.8% worked for employers who offered educational information about alcohol and drug use.
- Source: Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration*



Background Checks

Your company can greatly increase its odds of winning a "negligent hiring" lawsuit if it can show that a reasonable effort was made to conduct an applicant background check. Protect yourself by performing **Employee Background Checks**. American Drug Testing offers background checks for as little as \$9.00 each. Find out more at www.AmericanDrugTesting.net or call (843) 747-4111.

The Drug-Free Workplace Advisor

is published by **American Drug Testing**, a leading drug-free workplace administrator and testing company. Let us help you maintain a drug-free workplace. Call **(843) 747-4111**.
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Robert Dodenhoff
American Drug Testing
President

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