



American Drug Testing

Drug-Free Workplace Programs

Volume 1

Issue 14

(843) 747-4111

DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE ADVISOR

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

The abuse of opiates on the rise

Many opiates such as Oxycodone and Hydrocodone have seen a dramatic increase in abuse over the last several years. Oxycodone increased 47%, and 27% for Hydrocodone. These prescribed drugs are obtained on the street from numerous sources or from individuals that visit many different doctors with fake symptoms to obtain multiple prescriptions for the drugs. A favorite of abusers is OxyContin®, the number-one prescribed Schedule II narcotic in the U.S, whose only active ingredient is Oxycodone. By chewing, snorting or injection, abusers defeat the intended time-release action to gain a euphoric high—similar to heroin but without the withdrawal symptoms. These drugs are highly-addictive and are also responsible for sharp rises in emergency room visits and deaths over the past several years. Source: NSDUH

The Drug-Free Workplace Advisor



is a resource of American Drug Testing, the Lowcountry's premier drug-free workplace administrator, and testing company. Let us help you maintain a drug-free workplace. Contact us at (843)747-4111.

Steroid Abuse in General Population

Androgenic-anabolic steroids, and other performance enhancing drugs, are banned by major amateur and professional sports authorities.

They are classified as Schedule III controlled substances in the United States. These steroids are related to the male sex hormone, testosterone, and effect muscle growth (anabolic effects) and the development of male sexual characteristics (androgenic effects).

The initial steroid effect is noticeable muscle growth, improved physique, strength and sexual drive. It comes

side effects from severe acne to permanent liver damage, cardiovascular disease, loss of fertility, injuries, mood swings and psychological dependence. In women, they may cause irreversible masculinization.



believe that steroids, especially in the form of “nutritional supplements” are not drugs. A Newsweek analysis of the data from the Monitoring the Future, National Survey of Drug Use, indicates that in 2003 more than an estimated 300,000 students between the 8th and 12th grades used steroids. This number may underestimate the problem, since it does not fully account for prohormones and designer steroids, widely available as “nutritional supplements”.

“...more than an estimated 300,000 students between the 8th and 12th grades used steroids...”

with a price, however: chronic abuse compromises natural hormone production and testosterone drops very low.

The use of these substances leads to an array of negative

Withdrawal is characterized by muscle loss and severe depression. Recently, there has been much attention on steroid abuse in professional and Olympic sports. However, less attention is paid to the steroid misuse among the general population. The most vulnerable users are high-school students, who follow the example of their sports heroes.

The virtual lack of steroid testing in school makes many students sincerely

Many of these “supplements” are metabolized into well-known anabolic steroids or their metabolites. This loophole was partly closed by Congress by adding pro-hormones of testosterone and nandrolone to the list of Schedule III controlled substances effective January 2005. Education and appropriate testing programs will continue to be vital strategies to fight the illicit use of steroids.

Source: Quest Diagnostics