



# American Drug Testing

*Drug-Free Workplace Programs*

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(843) 747-4111

## DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE ADVISOR

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

### Drug Abuse on the Rise- Is Your Business at Risk?

Consider some pertinent facts concerning drug abuse:

The percentage of the U.S. population using illegal drugs increased from 6.3% in 1999 and 2000 to 7.1% in 2001; this translates to 15.9 million Americans (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration – SAMHSA)

- Nearly 7% of adults employed full time and 9% of those employed part time currently use illegal drugs. (SAMHSA)
- More than 70% of substance abusers hold jobs. (American Council for Drug Education – ACDE)
- Americans consume 60% of the world’s production of illegal drugs. In fact, 23 million individuals use marijuana at

least four times a week and 6 million regularly use cocaine. (ACDE)

- With drug abuse on the rise, the chances are our

*“...55% of the costs of substance abuse are borne by both employers and society at large.”*

business is at risk Drug abuse – a drain on business and the economy

- Drug use in the workplace costs employers approximately \$81 billion annually in lost productivity. (U.S. Department of Labor)
- 55% of the costs of substance abuse are borne by both employers and society at large. (Center for Substance Abuse Research, University of Maryland)
- Employees who abuse drugs or alcohol are 10 times more likely to miss work, nearly 4

times as likely to be involved in on-the-job accidents and 5 times more likely to file a workers’ compensation claim.

- They are also responsible for 40% of all industrial fatalities, 33% less productivity and health care costs that are three times as high as those of other co-workers. (American Council for Drug Education)

Note: American Drug Testing offers a full line of drug testing products and services that provide the critical information you need to make confident and informed decisions about prospective and current employees.

Source: Quest Diagnostics

#### Negligent Hiring

Employers lose 72% of all negligent hiring suits and the average jury plaintiff award in employment law cases continues to be in excess of \$1,000,000. Negligent hiring is an employer’s failure to exercise reasonable caution when choosing an employee. Increasingly, today, courts are holding employers financially and legally responsible for ille-

gal or violent actions taken by employees who were not subjected to reasonable pre-employment screening. In effect, **courts are saying that the employer is responsible** for what they know and **what they should have known about their employees**. 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](http://www.AmericanDrugTesting.net) or call (843) 747-4111.

#### 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.



Robert B. Dodenhoff  
President

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