



# American Drug Testing

*Drug-Free Workplace Programs*

Volume 1

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(843) 747-4111

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

## Substance Abuse Treatment Locator

[www.findtreatment.samhsa.gov](http://www.findtreatment.samhsa.gov)

Phone: 1-800-662-HELP  
This Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Web site and toll-free phone line help individuals locate drug and alcohol abuse treatment programs in their communities.



## Al-Anon/Alateen

Phone: (888) 4AM-ANON  
[www.al-anon.alateen.org](http://www.al-anon.alateen.org)

Al-Anon provides information on the effects of alcohol abuse and refers friends and families of alcohol abusers to nearby support groups. Al-Anon's purpose is to help families and friends of alcoholics recover from the effects of living with the problem drinking of a relative or friend. Alateen is the organization's program for young people whose lives have been affected by someone else's drinking.

## The Drug-Free Workplace Advisor

is a resource of American Drug Testing, the premier drug-free administrator, and more. Let us help you with your drug-free workplace at (843)747-



Robert B. Dodenhoff  
President

Drug Testing

## Increased Use of Amphetamines Linked to Rising Workplace Drug Use

TETERBORO, N.J., PRNews-wire-FirstCall/ -- Increased use of amphetamines among general U.S. workforce employees was linked to rising workplace drug use during 2003, according to the semi-annual Drug Testing Index®. Overall, the drug positivity rate increased to 4.5% in 2003 from 4.4% a year earlier for the combined U.S. workforce.

Among general U.S. workforce employees, the incidence of positive drug tests attributed to amphetamines rose by more than 44% in 2003 from 2002, reaching 0.49% of all drug tests that look for amphetamines among this group of workers. During 2003, amphetamine positivity was 0.34%. Growth in amphetamine use during this period represents the largest single-year surge in amphetamines use documented by the Drug Testing Index during the past five years. Drug test data suggest that greater use of methamphetamine among a large group of general U.S. workforce employees during 2003 may have caused the increase in amphetamines use overall. For this group of workers, the incidence of positive drug tests attributed to methamphetamine

increased by more than 68% in 2003 from 2002, reaching 0.32% of all positive drug tests. Methamphetamine, a type of amphetamine, is a potent synthetic psychostimulant drug, most frequently produced clandestinely in the United States.(1) The threat posed by methamphetamines will increase over the next year, as a result of rising availability of methamphetamines in drug markets in the



individuals to increase alertness, relieve fatigue, feel stronger and more decisive. Stimulants are also used for euphoric effects or to counteract the "down" feeling of tranquilizers or alcohol. Possible side effects of stimulants include increased heart and respiratory rates, elevated blood pressure, dilated pupils and decreased appetite; high doses

may cause rapid or irregular heartbeat, loss of coordination or collapse. Indications of possible misuse may include excessive activity, talkativeness, irritability, argumentativeness or nervousness. In addition to growing amphetamine use, the incidence of positive drug tests attributed to opiates also grew noticeably in 2003, climbing by more than 25% from 2002 among general U.S. workforce employees.

Source: Quest Diagnostics

During 2003, opiate positivity was 0.34% of all drug tests that look for opiates; in 2002, opiate positivity was 0.27%. The 2003 swing in opiate positivity marked the single largest year-over-year change in opiate use among this group of workers since 1999. The 2003 upturn in opiate positivity was driven by the growing use of morphine, a type of opiate, among a large group of general U.S. workforce employees during 2003. For this group of workers, the incidence of positive tests attributed to morphine use

## What is alcoholism?

Q #4: Can alcoholism be cured?

No, alcoholism cannot be cured. Even if an alcoholic hasn't been drinking for a long time, he or she can still suffer a relapse. To guard against a relapse, an alcoholic must continue to avoid all alcoholic beverages.

Q #5: Can alcoholism be treated?

Yes. Alcoholism treatment pro-

grams use both counseling and medications to help a person stop drinking. Most alcoholics need help to recover from their disease. With support and treatment, many people are able to rebuild their lives.

Q #6: Which medications treat alcoholism?

A range of medications are used to treat alcoholism. Benzodiazepines (Valium®, Librium®) are sometimes used

## Part III

during the first days to help him/her safely withdraw from alcohol. These medications are not used for long, however, as they may be highly addictive.

