



THE ADVOCATE

Promoting a Drug Free Work Place



Wolfe Data and Keystone Laboratories Newsletter

STEROID ABUSE--LATEST STATS

A recent NIDA-funded survey (1999 Monitoring the Future Survey) of drug abuse among adolescents in middle and high schools across the United States, estimated that 2.7 percent of 8th- and 10th- graders, and 2.9 percent of 12th-graders had taken anabolic steroids at least once in their lives. This represented a significant increase over 1998 statistics for 10th-graders---from 2.0 percent in 1998 to 2.7 percent in 1999. For all three grades, the 1999 levels also represented a significant increase over the 1991 statistics, which was the first year that data on steroid abuse were collected from the younger students. In 1991, 1.9 percent of 8th-graders, 1.8 percent of 10th-graders, and 2.1 percent of 12th-graders reported that they had taken anabolic steroids at least once.

Few data exist on the extent of steroid abuse by adults. It has been estimated that hundreds of thousands of people aged 18 and older abuse anabolic steroids at least once a year.

Among both adolescents and adults, steroid abuse is higher among males than females. However, steroid abuse is growing most rapidly among young women.

* Information from NIDA Research Report Series

Mission Statement

"To remain the leader in the drug and alcohol testing industry throughout the United States by utilizing both the skills of a highly trained and motivated staff and the latest technological advances while providing innovative products, superior value, and impeccable service to our customers."

EMPLOYEES' VIEWS... ON DRUG TESTING

When asked, "What is the greatest problem facing the United States today?", nearly 30% of employees responding to a national Gallup survey answered "drugs." Drug testing is usually well-received by employees as long as it is done with appropriate procedural safeguards, is consistently enforced, and is conducted pursuant to a policy that is well-communicated.

The survey showed an increasing intolerance among employees for drug abuse and drug abusers, and an acceptance--if not an expectation--that employers take strong steps to provide drug-free workplaces.

Sixty-six percent of employees whose companies did not have a drug testing program indicated that they would be in favor of their company implementing drug testing. Only 26 percent indicated that they would oppose it.

Of the fifty-nine percent of the employees whose companies had "policies" against drug abuse, 22 percent felt that the policies "were not strong enough," while 2 percent said the policies were "too strong."

Perhaps most revealing as to the attitudes of employees about drug testing, is that more than 97 percent favor drug testing in the workplace at least under some circumstances.

Most workers are not drug abusers, and they do not want to work side-by-side with those who abuse drugs.

Data continues to show that employees and employers are on the same side in the "war on drugs," and that side is decisively in favor of a strong anti-drug abuse company policy and enforcement of that policy... another step toward the goal of a drug-free workplace.

