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Statistics

* Around 90% of property related crimes, especially theft, are made by drug addicts who need money to support their addiction.

- *Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Help*

* Small and medium-sized firms employ 80% of the U.S. workforce where drug testing policies & programs are not in place.

- www.livedrugfree.org

Boeing Arrests Point to Workplace Drug Problems

The arrest of more than three dozen people on drug charges at a Boeing military aircraft plant highlights the growing problem of prescription drug abuse by U.S. workers.

Federal authorities charged 37 people, all but one of them current or former Boeing employees, with selling or trying to buy painkillers and anti-anxiety drugs at the company's suburban Philadelphia plant. The federal drug raid on the plant that makes key U.S. military aircraft followed four years of stealth operations as agents infiltrated the factory and found workers to cooperate in undercover deals, authorities said.

Many employer drug tests now in use would not catch workers

abusing painkillers or some other prescription medications. Only 12 percent of the 4.5 million drug tests conducted last year tested for Oxycontin, a powerful painkiller. Oxycontin was one of the four types of prescription drugs found at the Boeing factory.

Also, three-quarters of all drug tests happen before someone is hired, making it difficult to detect workers who get addicted to drugs on the job. Even with the gaps in testing, evidence shows that prescription drug abuse on the job is on the rise.

Forty percent more American workers tested positive for prescription opiates, or painkillers, in 2009, than in 2005.



Those drugs were also linked to more workplace accidents.

"If you think about the profile of the typical prescription drug user, they're not going to be typical of other illicit drug use. It's going to be in the normal places, like workplaces, colleges," said John Challis, vice president of treatment services at the Daytop Village drug treatment facility in New York. "That report about Boeing is inclusive of that."

Article Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/10/01/us-usa-crime-boeing-abuse-idUSTRE79008020111001?>

Notes from Ray Kubacki

Dear Valued Clients and Friends,

In the last newsletter, we informed you that prescription drug abuse is now the fastest growing drug problem in the country. The article above highlights the prevalence of prescription drugs not only in society, but also in the workplace. As we mentioned, we feel that identifying prescription drug abusers is so important that we include testing for Oxycontin, Vicodin, and Dilaudid at no additional cost in our standard panel.

We would also be happy to talk to you about how a random testing program of your existing workers could be beneficial, and can detect those workers who get addicted to drugs on the job. Random testing current employees could help to avoid situations like the one above.

Be sure to read the article inside about Drug Free Work Week. This is a great opportunity to review your current policies and reinforce the importance of a drug free work environment. Psychemedics clients can be proud that you are improving your workforces safety and health with the most effective drug testing program available.

Best Regards,

Ray



Raymond Kubacki, Chairman & CEO,
Psychemedics Corporation

Study Confirms That Drug Testing Improves Productivity

A recent poll (The SHRM/ DATIA poll – *Drug Testing Efficacy*) found that some employers noticed an impact on employee productivity, absenteeism and workers compensation incidence rates after implementing drug testing programs. Neil Fortner, DATIA Chairman elect and the study's principal investigator said, "The data shows that drug testing may yield a high return on investment by creating a more stable, productive and safe workplace."



The poll of 1,058 randomly selected HR professionals examines employers' drug testing policies and practices. Among other findings:

- A fifth of organizations (19%) reported seeing an improvement in productivity.
- 6% of organizations saw workers' compensation incidence rates of more than 6% after implementing programs compared to 14% before starting drug testing programs, a decrease of more than 50%.
- For employers with drug testing programs, 16% reported a decrease in employee turnover rates, after the implementation of a drug testing program.
- More than half of employers (57%) conduct drug tests on all job candidates.
- Most employers who use tests on job candidates have done so for seven years or more (69 percent).

<http://datia.org/component/content/article/1078-shrm-adatia-poll-half-of-employers-conduct-drug-tests-on-final-job-candidates.html>



ASTOUNDING FACTS

In the first hour after cocaine use, the user's heart attack risk is almost **24 times greater.**

Source: *Determinants of Myocardial Infarction Onset Study*

DRUGS IN THE NEWS

Pot Smokers 3 Times More Likely To Use Other Drugs

A study has found that people in their 20s who regularly smoke cannabis are up to three times more likely to use other illicit drugs.

The findings were based on a long-term study of nearly 2000 high school students who were first surveyed on their drug habits when they were teens and throughout their 20s.

It found that while cannabis use tended to fall as people headed towards 30, those who persisted in the habit used the drug more frequently as the years went by.

Those who smoked cannabis regularly were also found to be two to three times more likely to start using other illicit drugs, such as cocaine and amphetamines, than occasional users.

<http://www.skynews.com.au/health/article.aspx?id=639764&vld>

Marijuana Found in Nuclear Site Work Room

Six workers at the nation's most contaminated nuclear site decided to quit rather than submit to drug testing after a baggie of marijuana was found in a building at a landfill.

A manager for a company that runs the landfill at south-central Washington's Hanford nuclear reservation found the baggie in the workers' day room following a staff meeting. Six workers resigned rather than be tested.

"We take workplace safety very seriously and have a zero tolerance for any physical or mental altering substances," said Todd Nelson, spokesman for Washington Closure Hanford. "Protection of our workers is paramount. The fact that it's illegal is one thing, but it's also a worker safety issue as well."

<http://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/6-Hanford-waste-workers-quit-over-drug-testing-2137611.php#ixzz1a1HsJEC7>

NATIONAL DRUG-FREE WORK WEEK

Psychemedics is proud to celebrate National *Drug-Free Work Week*, October 18-24.

Drug-Free Work Week is a dedicated time each year to highlight the benefits that drug-free workplace programs bring to employers, workers and communities. And, it's a time to work toward making every week a drug-free work week!

It spreads the word that **working drug free works** to...

- ▶ Prevent accidents and make workplaces safer
- ▶ Improve productivity and reduce costs
- ▶ Encourage people with alcohol and drug problems to seek help

According to recent research, it's a message that many workers need to hear.

- ▶ 75 percent of the nation's current illegal drug users are employed—and 3.1 percent say they have actually used illegal drugs before or during work hours.
- ▶ 79 percent of the nation's heavy alcohol users are employed—and 7.1 percent say they have actually consumed alcohol during the workday.

Drug-free workplace programs help protect employers and employees alike from the potentially devastating consequences of worker alcohol or drug abuse. Establishing policies, educating about the dangers of alcohol and drug use, deterring and detecting use, and urging people to seek help for alcohol and drug problems are smart safety strategies. They're also smart business strategies.

Drug-Free Work Week is a time to reinforce the importance of working drug free in positive, proactive ways. To get *Drug-Free Work Week* resources or learn more about how your organization can participate, visit the United States Department of Labor website at: <http://www.dol.gov/asp/programs/drugs/workingpartners/dfww-introduction.asp>.



Psychemedics Clients:

Please let us know if you are interested in receiving copies of the poster above (available in English or Spanish) to hang in your facility. Please email info@psychemedics.com to request copies.

Ideas for Employers to Recognize Drug Free Work Week:

- **Implement a Drug-Free Workplace Program** - This is the perfect time to launch a new program, if your organization does not already have one.
- **Promote your Drug-Free Workplace Program** - Now is a logical time to ensure that your program is adequate and to remind employees about the program's role in keeping them safe while on the job.
- **Train Supervisors** - Supervisors are the individuals closest to an organization's workforce. Conduct training to ensure supervisors understand the organization's policy on drug and alcohol use, ways to deal with workers who may have a substance abuse problem, and how to refer employees to available assistance.
- **Educate Workers** - It is critical that workers are educated about the negative impact of substance abuse on workplace safety and productivity.

Did You Know ??

THE PSYCHEMEDICS ADVANTAGE

On average, 85% of the drug users identified by Psychemedics would have been missed by urinalysis. This is due not only to our much longer detection window of approximately 3 months, but also to our unique proprietary technology.

*Superior Detection
of Drug Abuse*

**PSYCHEMEDICS
CLIENT SERVICES INFO:**

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Monday – Friday

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About Psychemedics

Psychemedics was established in 1987 to provide testing for drugs of abuse using hair analysis, and has been successfully operating for over 20 years. Thousands of corporations currently rely on Psychemedics' proprietary hair analysis technology for their pre-employment and employee drug screening. Psychemedics is headquartered in Boston and has offices in Dallas, Chicago, Los Angeles and Las Vegas. Our Laboratory is located in Culver City, CA. Psychemedics is a publicly-held corporation listed on NASDAQ under the ticker symbol PMD.