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Drug Abuse & Demand Reduction

By Ruchi Ahuja

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Drug abuse is a global phenomenon. It affects almost every country, although its extent and characteristics differ from region to region. Drug abuse trends around the world, especially among youth, have started to converge over the last few decades.

The most widely consumed drug worldwide is cannabis. Three-quarters of all countries report abuse of heroin and two-thirds report abuse of cocaine. Drug-related problems include increased rates of crime and violence, susceptibility to HIV/AIDS and hepatitis, demand for treatment and emergency room visits and a breakdown in social behavior.

Demand reduction strategies seek to prevent the onset of drug use, help drug users break the habit and provide treatment through rehabilitation and social reintegration.

To reduce or eliminate drug abuse, governments need up-to-date statistics on who is taking drugs and why. The Global Programme on Drug Abuse has established one global and nine regional systems to collect reliable and internationally comparable drug abuse data and to assess the magnitude and patterns of drug abuse at the country, regional and global levels.

Drug abuse cuts across age, class, ethnic and gender lines. By working with grass-roots groups, private businesses and other community partners, it supports projects addressing the needs of specific populations, such as street children and those trying to cope with neglect, violence and sexual abuse. These strategies help disadvantaged groups to avoid high-risk behavior and settings that give rise to a range of problems, including the use of illicit drugs and alcohol.

Access to Treatment and Rehabilitation

People with drug abuse problems have different needs. Women, the young, the poor, refugees and ethnic and religious minorities need easier access to early intervention and services. Once in

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treatment, drug abusers may need job training and referral, assistance in finding housing and reintegrating into society. Drug abusers who commit crimes require alternative treatment in order to break the cycle of drug abuse and crime.

The Global Youth Network project is creating a network of participatory youth organizations that work for drug abuse prevention. Our activities include experience-sharing meetings, how-to guides on innovative techniques on drug abuse prevention written for and by young people and an active e-mail listserv. The Youth Network web site also provides an on-line resource for groups who want to improve their projects or who want to start new drug abuse prevention programmes.

At the end of 2002, an estimated 42 million people around the world were living with HIV/AIDS. During the same year, five million new infections were reported, while the epidemic claimed and estimated 3.1 million lives. One third of the people living with HIV/AIDS are between 15 and 24 years old. Injecting drug abuse is among the major forces driving the epidemic, attributing to around five per cent of HIV

transmission., a cosponsor of UNAIDS since 1999, has been mainstreaming HIV/AIDS prevention into its demand reduction activities globally, with an emphasis on promoting skills development and helping young people live a healthy, drug-free life.

The programme also supports prevention activities to limit the spread of HIV/AIDS among injecting drug abusers, and through them, to their spouses, children and the general population.

Hope that this programme continues to run so that it protects the people from the social destruction. And make the country grow I the healthy and peaceful environment

THANKINGYOU

RUCHI AHUJA

Ruchi Ahuja – a free lancer

Important Points To Consider When It Comes To Drug Testing

By Stephen White

For people who want to have a loved one undergo drug testing or for anyone who just wants to go through a drug testing, here are some highly important points to take note of when it comes to drug testing and substance abuse. It really is high time for people all across the United States, even the entire world, to really put some greater importance on the life threatening risks that are involved when it comes to drugs and various other substance abuses.

Some general information about the detection of drug abuse from drug testing: as compared to having a drug testing wherein they will take samples of the patient's blood, it is highly recommended that the medical technicians just use the patient's urine as the urine has been proven to be actually more

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reliable when it comes to the detection of any drug abuse. Unfortunately, it also a more expensive kind of drug testing. However, even if it is fairly easy for medical technicians to see whether or not a person has taken in some harmful drugs into one's system.

A urine drug testing, as goes with the blood drug testing, would not be able to provide the medical technicians with other relevant information with regards to the drug testing. Whether or not the patient is under the influence of the drug at a specific time is most unlikely to be determined by the urine drug testing.

Blood testing, however, in spite of being the lesser choice when it comes to drug testing will actually be able to help the medical technicians to obtain some more relevant information on whether or not the individual is actually under the influence of drugs during the time that he or she went through the drug testing. Although some experts say that this may tend to not be conclusive in all cases.

Another drug testing technique nowadays is through hair testing which is actually not recommended because a lot of laboratories are actually finding some difficulty with regards to the reliability of the results especially, as most often than not, drug testing through the hair usually poses "positive" results for the patient. A lot of people don't buy into this kind of drug testing since with the simple act of washing one's hair as well as being subjected to other hair "contaminants" can the patient actually saves his or herself from being detected with any substance abuse.

The laboratories that usually perform this kind of drug testing do not really have the ability to confirm the reliability as well as the accuracy of their hair testing's results. This can actually put lawyers who are defending a person who is said to have been under substance abuse in a precarious situation wherein the evidence to be presented in court may really not be that reliable. The urine drug testing's accuracy is also highly dependent on how the drug testing procedure has been carried out by the medical technician.

It is important to note that drug testing will only be extremely reliable and accurate if and only if every aspect of the drug testing process are done with much care. When mishandling happens, there is the great chance that the results of the drug testing may actually be inaccurate and unreliable. This is why when it comes to drug testing, the people who are going through with it should be fully aware of how the drug testing process should be appropriately done as well as exercise one's assertiveness by demanding that the clinic which is conducting the drug testing has to do it properly and according to the systems standards.

Unfortunately, most especially during this time wherein more and more people are getting lured into doing drugs as well as other substance abuse, a lot of the clinics that are conducting drug testing all over the United States are not really capable of providing the reliable results that people need due to the rampant mishandling and as well as the improper way that some clinics conduct their drug testings. Therefore, the top three most reliable aspects that people should need to look for in a drug test for it be considered as reliable: strict collection procedures, proper testing procedures and random notification.

For more great drug testing info and advice check out:

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