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## How Drug And Alcohol Testing Are Carried Out On Drivers

By Kathryn Whittaker

Drug and alcohol tests vary -testing is required for most driver's license applicants and before a driver's license renewal. Nevertheless, it depends on the state a driver resides in really.

Some states have passed laws that empower the police to randomly test drivers for the presence of cannabis (tetrahydrocannabinol), commonly known as marijuana, and methamphetamines, commonly known as speed ice or crystal meth. Even a driver's saliva can be tested with an "absorbent collector" - whereby an individual presses their tongue to a "collector" and then chews on it. If a driver tests positive for any of these drugs, their license is immediately cancelled.

"Drug driving" is the term used for those who operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. There are different consequences for those guilty of "drug driving" that depend on precisely what substances were in their system at the time.

Also, "drugs" has a different connotation to authorities than they would to let's say, a pharmacist. When a police officer thinks of drugs, he means depressants like cannabis, methadone and heroin, stimulants like speed, cocaine and ecstasy, and hallucinogens such as LSD. Even so, there are some prescription drugs that affect driving, like tranquilizing drugs (rohypnol and oxazepam), which cause drowsiness and render a person unfit to operate a vehicle.

Surveys show that the number of road accidents is directly related to the amount of drivers under the influence of illegal drugs and alcohol on the road. And sadly, a large number of those who are involved in accidents due to "drug driving," die. Some studies show that because the prevalence of different drugs has increased over the decade, so has the number of car accident casualties.

While it is easy to correlate drug use with motorist deaths, there is not a cause-effect relationship that can be proven as of yet but it is still interesting to note. And clearly, a diver who is free of drugs and alcohol is a safer driver than a driver under the influence. Legislators have the responsibility of carefully designing laws that limit "drug driving" and ultimately, the number of dangerous and fatal car accidents.

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A person's capacity to handle the effects of drugs and alcohol certainly play a role in determining the degree of impairment they will experience while on the road. But this is very difficult to determine, as a person's tolerance of various substances is based on many different factors, like genes, past exposure, and even their diet that day. Likewise, the specific combination of drugs and alcohol can have unpredictable effects on a person. Essentially, it's all a precariously inexact science.

Hence, police officers must make general observations in order to determine if a driver is a potential threat on the road. Those abusing depressants tend to have slow reactions and reduced concentration - for example, cannabis users usually have trouble keeping their car in the correct lane and encounter difficulty maneuvering on busy roads and intersections.

Kathryn Whittaker has an interest in Health and Beauty related topics. To access more information on

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### **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 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.

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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:

<http://www.drugtestinghq.com>



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