



Drug Testing Guide for Parents



Why take action

109%

The percentage increase from 2019-21 that children ages 10-17 died from drug overdose.

46.6%

The percentage of American teenagers who have tried illicit drugs by the time they're in 12th grade.

2.08M

The number of American teenagers who reported using drugs in just one month of 2020.



Why Drug Testing

Prevention works. Start the conversation as early as age 8.

It is best to begin drug education and to establish open discussion and knowledge-sharing with your child early. Implementing regular drug testing can serve as a powerful deterrent for use. By conducting drug tests, parents can establish clear expectations and boundaries regarding substance use.

Early intervention is critically important.

Drug testing is also a powerful tool for early detection of drug use -- which allows for early intervention that helps identify issues before they escalate.

When to test depends on:

Your hunch or instinct

Do you suspect your child has used? Do you suspect your child's friends have used? Do you suspect your child is exposed to drug use when you are not present?

Drug use trends in your area

Consult the National Institute on Drug Abuse at drugabuse.gov; your child's School Resource Officer, Principal, and/or Physician; your local DEA office; and local news coverage.



Testing methods

There are many ways to test for drug and alcohol use. Parents need to know the different methodologies and their characteristic window of detection.

Method Sample	Window of Detection	Types
Urine	24-72 hours within several hours after use	Instant and Lab
Oral Fluid	24-72 hours within several minutes after use	Instant and Lab
Fingernails	6 months*	Lab
Toenails	12 months*	Lab
Hair	3 months**	Lab
Blood	24-48 hours within several minutes after use	Lab
Surface Testing	Positive or Negative	Instant and Lab
Breath Alcohol	Current use	Instant
Child Guard	3 months - Tests environment of use	Lab

* Window of Detection begins at nail clipping once the nail protrudes from the dermal matrix.

**Window of Detection for hair begins after approximately seven days of hair growth.

Common Youth Testing Panel

Marijuana + Opioids + Amphetamines + Alcohol + Cotinine (Tobacco)

- Opioids include opiates and semi-synthetic opiates. Codeine, Morphine, Heroin, Hydrocodone, Hydromorphone, Oxycodone, Oxymorphone
- Amphetamines include Methamphetamine

Additional Drugs to consider:

- Fentanyl
- Designer Drugs (synthetics mimicking illicit drugs)
- Barbiturates
- Benzodiazepenes
- Methodone
- Prescription painkillers
- LSD and Mushrooms



Contact NDASA for assistance.



Members of the National Drug and Alcohol Screening Association (NDASA) work across the United States and in other countries to provide drug testing services and support for drug-testing programs. They also help with presentations and events focused on drug and alcohol use prevention, testing and treatment. Please contact NDASA to find a member near you.



Phone Number :

888-31-NDASA

Email :

info@NDASA.com