



# Occupational Health Services of America, Inc.

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## **Drugs and the Economy**

**Every person in America is affected by the economic changes occurring in the world today. If it has not affected your business, it has affected your family. The nightly news reports a daily report of company after company going “under” or making serious cuts in employment. What or how can OHSA help you to abide by your company policy and reduce your over all cost of drug testing? Better yet, in these tough times, do you stop testing completely?**

**The answer to this question is also given in the nightly news. An article appeared in the Chicago Daily Herald recently, reporting an increase in cases of substance abuse, depression and suicide as a result of the economy. This same article quoted a 30% increase in admissions to a Behavioral Health Hospital. Janet Stover, executive director of the Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Service, writes, “It is a dangerous collision course, there is not enough money and more people needing the service.” In addition, governmental agencies are facing the same squeeze. Therefore, halting your drug & alcohol testing is clearly not an option.**

### **What CAN you do in these troubled times?**

**We have two suggestions to help you cut your testing costs:**

- One suggestion to companies not mandated to do random testing at the 50% level is to cut back on your percentage of testing. A smaller percentage still keeps the accountability but decreases the cost. At any time OHSA can change your percentage needed.**
- Another suggestion would be to send your applicants directly to a lab for collection. The collection fee is the only variable in the cost of the drug screen. The lab site is always the lowest cost for collection. Our goal is to always set you up with the most convenient, cost effective location. However, you may have requested a clinic location to do both your physicals and drug screens to save your employee’s time. The average cost savings at the lab over the clinic is approximately five (\$5.00) per test. We are always flexible to change your drug screens to another location.**

**Drug testing is a good deterrent. Most sensible people won’t risk their jobs if they know they can be tested at any time. Money spent preventing an incident from ever occurring is typically ten times less than associated costs surrounding a drug or alcohol incident, not to mention the emotional impact an accident or injury has on staff morale. Also, positive drug tests do show recent use and have become defacto evidence of impairment. Courts have upheld employer rights to take disciplinary action against employees who test positive, especially when safety is an issue.**

**Under the current economic times, drug and alcohol use will increase; therefore, our only option is to maintain an active drug program. We are open to help you in any way we can—just give us a call.**



***OHSA***

***Your healthy business is our priority***

