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## **A Drug-Free Workplace Policy Can Increase Business Productivity**

*The Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey / Drugs Don't Work in NJ!*  
Program Helps Businesses Prevent Substance Abuse Problems

Fewer accidents. Lower absenteeism. Decreased theft. Improved productivity. Higher employee morale. These are just a few of the positive impacts that a written and enforced drug-free workplace policy can provide New Jersey businesses.

Gerry Marini, Founder, ***Drugs Don't Work in NJ!***, told *Enterprise*, "We have found that 70 percent of drug abusers are employed. Our latest research indicates that 68 percent of New Jersey companies found that a written substance abuse policy was effective in reducing accidents. Many of these same businesses claim that having such a policy increased productivity, reduced absenteeism, and improved employee morale."

"We're about prevention," said Marini. "The *Drugs Don't Work in NJ!* program can provide businesses with free assistance in developing and implementing a successful policy. We do free presentations for municipal and regional Chambers of Commerce throughout the state. The program has over 2,400 members -- from huge, multi-national corporations to mid-size companies and small local shops. Whether a business has just a few employees or several hundred, having a drug-free workplace policy is key to combating the problem and keeping your business competitive."

Joining the program is free and is open to all New Jersey businesses. *Drugs Don't Work in NJ!* offers many helpful resources, including a drug-free workplace kit which contains a model policy, tips on training supervisors and employees, and information on instituting drug-testing procedures and how to assist employees who have substance abuse problems.

Members also receive quarterly updates on legislative and legal developments that affect drug-free workplace policies as well as an invitation to attend the annual member's seminar. The seminar features presentations by legal and other subject matter experts who provide business owners and managers with helpful information on preventing and dealing with substance abuse problems in the workplace. Upon request, member companies can also receive a work site visit from a trained field representative who can help them establish a drug-free workplace.

"It's estimated that over ten percent of the population use illegal drugs, so having an effective drug-free workplace policy in place is not a luxury. It's a 'must have' in these challenging economic times that call for business owners and managers to keep a mindful eye on everything that affects the bottom line," said Marini. For more information on how to join *Drugs Don't Work in NJ!*, visit [www.drugfreenj.org](http://www.drugfreenj.org) or call Chris Barton at 973-467-2100.