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# **Ethics Research on Drug Testing Welfare Recipients**

**Name:**

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# Introduction



- Change of federal financial support into limited periods
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) initiative (APSPE, 2011)
- Emergence of legislative disputes concerning welfare policies
- Proposals to brand drug tests a condition of permissibility (NCSL, n.d.)
- Taxpayer Funding

# Advantages of <sup>1</sup>Drug Testing for Welfare Recipients

- Coherent use of public resources
  - ✓ Agreement of people whose taxes reserves the welfare scheme
  - ✓ Claims of supporters of obligatory drug testing
- Recognizing individuals who need drug addiction rehabilitation
  - ✓ Substance abuse affecting the entire society
  - ✓ The essence of mandatory drug testing



# Cont..



- Available alternate drug testing approaches
  - ✓ Policy restructuring
- Labor market guide
  - ✓ State administration representatives claim employers require drug testing
- Discouragement of extended welfare use
  - ✓ Increasing the conditions for receiving assistance pushes people to seek employment

# Disadvantages of <sup>1</sup>Drug Testing for Welfare Recipients

- Unprivileged stewardship of public resources
  - ✓ Opponents claim the testing cost outweighs the savings
- Statutory violation
  - ✓ People's statutory rights
- Downgrading of people's wellbeing
  - ✓ Mandatory drug testing perpetuates welfare applicants perception of addicts



# Cont..



- Denial of welfare assistance to children owing to drug analysis
  - ✓ <sup>2</sup> According to the Department of Health and Human Services, youngsters account for approximately 75 per cent of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients (NCSACW, n.d.).

# Opinion

- Testing welfare recipients is unethical
- Barring drug addicts from benefits may aid in the objective of reducing welfare expenditures spent on drugs
- The attempt of accomplishing the same is likely to be prohibitively expensive
- Drug testing for welfare recipients should be abolished



# Cont..



- As a result, because of the primary focus on drug testing outcomes, this viewpoint is consistent with the practical approach
- Addicts should be referred for treatment instead of stigmatization
- However, it is not certain that rehabilitation would guarantee employability

# Conclusion

- If other occupational restrictions are not addressed, advances in these areas are unlikely to be highly beneficial
- The effects of treatment on children well-being are also controversial
- Certain studies in the U.S. found an increased likelihood of child abuse accusations following parental counselling
- Welfare drug analysis plans are more likely to escalate

(Monash University, 2019)



# Cont..



- The costs and drawbacks of the program on welfare receivers, drug addicts, and the broader community are too large to warrant slight positive outcomes
- Based on the facts, the manifestation of expenses and ailments is further likely compared to the realization of any affirmative effects
- Drug analysis for assistance claimants is a tough and emotionally sensitive issue (Scope, 2018)
- With sustained effort and compromise, it is hoped that a resolution that is equitable to all associations involved may be developed

# Discussion Questions

- Is it ethical to test welfare claimants for drugs?
- What are the goals of welfare recipients drug analysis?
- What evidence does national government have in justifying drug testing against welfare receivers?



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