

# Drug Testing and Public Assistance Essay

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Our country has faced many issues in Social Welfare and many of these issues have become a hot topic around the drinking fountain at work. Everything from the viability of social security, unemployment insurance, supplemental security income, medicare and medicaid, private insurance and the managed care system, section 8 housing assistance, and food stamps and temporary assistance to needy families. These issues generate a lot of strong feelings on either side. In this paper I will be discussing arguments for and against drug testing for [welfare](#) recipients, particularly recipients of food stamps and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

To understand the current issues it may be helpful to understand first the history of welfare in America. For the greater part of American history there was no federally funded "Welfare" program. The poorest of the poor were aided by private organizations, churches and occasionally by small state programs (Snyder, 2004). Welfare is viewed as a social problem and has been the subject of major reform acts for decades. It wasn't until 1935, during the Great Depression, that Congress enacted the first form of welfare, Aid to Dependent Children (ADC).. The federally funded program was designed to assist widows, orphans, and divorced or abandoned mothers and their children. The program slowly grew over the next several decades, but accelerated during the 1960s and 1970s and was renamed Aid for Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). The federally funded program

was created to temporarily help those in need, it was never meant to make the recipients dependant on the benefits or the program. In the early 1990s, with the number of recipients now reaching over 14 million, it was apparent that w...

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