

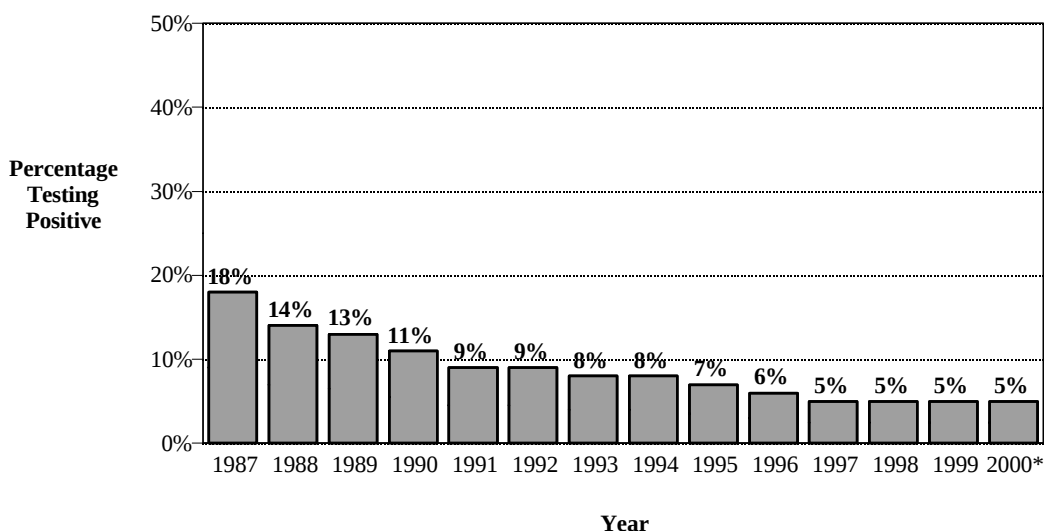
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Drug Positives Remain Stable at 5% Among Tested Workforce

The percentage of the U.S. workforce testing positive for illicit drugs has remained stable since 1997, according to data from Quest Diagnostics, a company that provides drug testing services for U.S. businesses. In the first six months of 2000, the company performed approximately 3 million workplace drug tests. Of these, 5% tested positive for at least one illicit drug, down from 18% in 1987. Marijuana continues to be the most widely detected drug (3.3% of all tests performed in the first half of 2000 were positive for marijuana) followed by cocaine (0.71%).

**Percentage Testing Positive for at Least One Illicit Drug
Among U.S. Workers Tested by Quest Diagnostics, Inc., 1987-2000**



*2000 data are for January through June.

NOTES: These data are only representative of the portion of the U.S. workforce that is tested by Quest Diagnostics, Inc. Reasons for drug testing include pre-employment, periodic, random, post-accident, “for cause”, and “returned to duty” testing. Drugs tested for included amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, opiates, PCP, and propoxyphene.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Quest Diagnostics, Inc., “Drug Testing Index Shows 48% Decline in Cheating on Workplace Drug Tests,” December 1, 2000. Online at <http://www.questdiagnostics.com/corporatehealth/news/dti.htm>.