

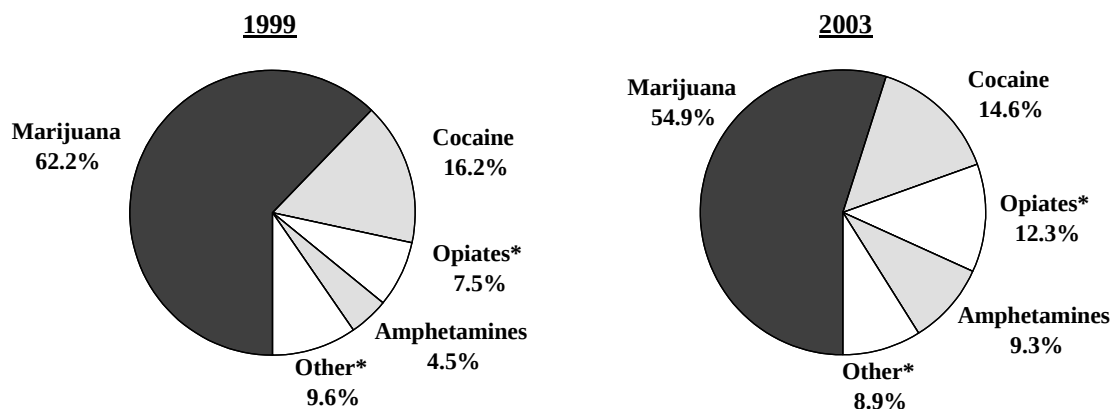
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Percentage of Amphetamines and Opiates in Positive Employee Drug Tests Increases

Of the more than 7.1 million workplace drug tests conducted by Quest Diagnostics in 2003, 4.5% tested positive for at least one illicit drug, a rate that has remained relatively constant since 1999. However, there has been a shift in the types of drugs detected. The percentage of positive drug tests containing amphetamines doubled, from 4.5% in 1999 to 9.3% in 2003, primarily due to an increase in methamphetamine positives. The percentage of positive drug tests containing opiates, particularly methadone, propoxyphene (e.g. Darvon®), and morphine, also increased during this period, from 7.5% to 12.3% of all positive tests. In contrast, the percentage of positive tests that contained marijuana and cocaine decreased from 1999 to 2003.

Comparison of Positive Urine Tests Among U.S. Workers, 1999 and 2003



*The category "opiates" includes methadone, propoxyphene, and other opiates. The category "other" includes barbiturates, benzodiazepines, PCP, acid/base, oxidizing adulterants, and substituted urines.

NOTES: This data is from workers employed by companies that use Quest Diagnostics' drug testing services, including federally-mandated safety-sensitive workers. Reasons for testing include pre-employment, periodic, random, post-accident, for cause, and returned to duty.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Quest Diagnostics, "Increased Use of Amphetamines Linked to Rising Workplace Drug Use, According to Quest Diagnostics' 2003 Drug Testing Index," *News from Quest Diagnostics*, July 22, 2004. Available online at http://www.questdiagnostics.com/employersolutions/dti_07_2004/dti_index.html. For more information, contact Jennifer Somers at 201-393-5700.