

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

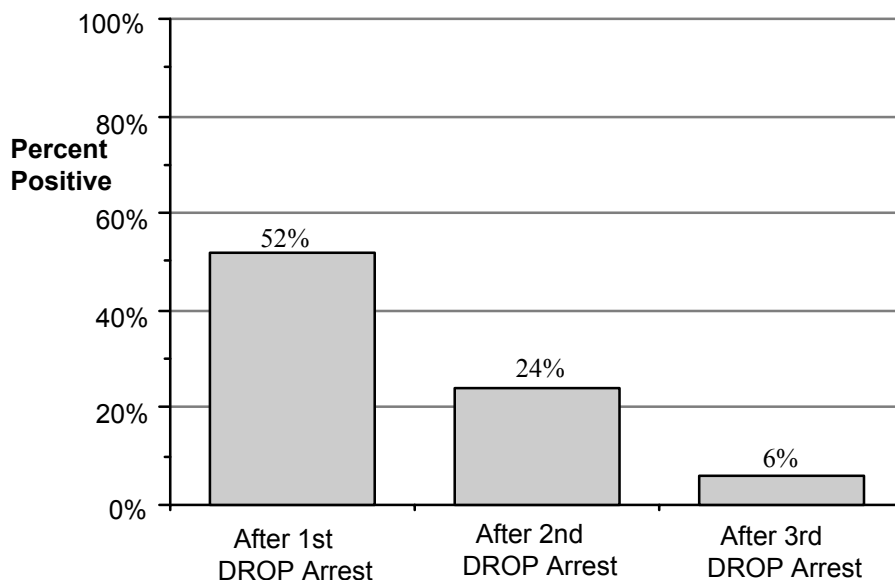
University of Maryland at College Park*

Drug Testing With Sanctions Proves Effective With Probationers in Oregon

An overall reduction in drug positives has been found for probationers in Coos County, Oregon since implementation of the Drug Reduction of Probationers (DROP) program in September, 1988. According to Oregon officials, the key to the success of this program is that it "assures a certain and swift response when urinalysis tests show that a probationer has returned to drug use." Any probationer testing positive is immediately arrested and detained in the local county jail. The jail time is brief—2 days for the first violation, 10 days for the second violation, and 30 days for the third violation, however it is the "certainty and saliency of the punishment" that is key in serving as a deterrent. Of the 198 current active cases among probationers arrested on the DROP program, 52% test positive after their first arrest for a drug positive, 24% after the 2nd arrest, and only 6% after a 3rd arrest. Prior to implementation of the DROP program, 43% of all probationers tested positive; since DROP, drug positives have decreased to an average of 10%.

Drug Test Results, by DROP Arrest

(N = 198 current active cases among probationers arrested on the program)



SOURCE: Kushner, Jeffrey. "Salient and Consistent Sanctions: Oregon's Key to Reducing Drug Use." *Treatment Improvement Exchange Communiqué*, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Spring, 1993. For more information contact Jeffrey Kushner, Director, Oregon Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs at (503) 378-2163.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NOVEMBER, 1992 SEWG MEETING NOW AVAILABLE!

Highlights from the November Maryland State Epidemiology Workgroup (SEWG) meeting are now available. Call CESAR at (301) 403-8329 to receive a copy.

For more information about today's topic or to be placed on the distribution list, please call CESAR at 301-403-8329.

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