

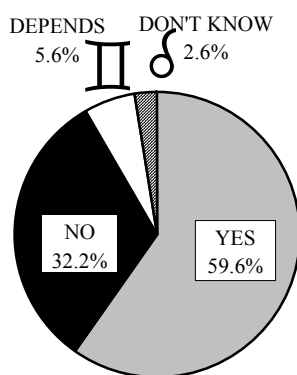
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park*

Marylanders Favor Drug Testing of Arrestees And Job Applicants

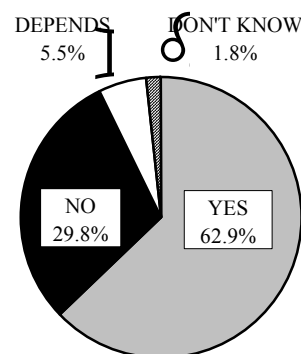
Maryland residents are as likely to favor drug testing of arrested persons (62.9%) as they are to favor testing of job applicants (59.6%). However, it has been noted that across the United States, one is more likely to be subjected to a urine test if s/he is an employee (or applicant) of a "Fortune 500" company than if s/he is arrested for a crime. This is a puzzling situation given the substantial research indicating that recent illegal drug use is many times more prevalent in arrestee populations than among the employed. In most large cities, approximately 50% of arrestees test positive for a drug, usually cocaine. In contrast, a 1989 U.S. Department of Transportation Drug Testing Program detected only 143 users (< 1%, primarily of marijuana) among 26,707 tested employees. The CESAR FAX of 10/5/92 reported that only 2.8% of 138,123 specimens from employees and job applicants tested by the Maryland Medical Laboratory tested positive for cocaine or marijuana.

Do You Think That All Maryland Businesses With 50+ Employees Should be Required to Test Job Applicants' Urine For Drugs?



TEST JOB APPLICANTS?

Do You Think That All Arrested Persons Should Have Their Urine Tested For Drugs?



TEST ARRESTEES?

SOURCE: Statewide telephone polls of 1,001 adults age 18 or older, conducted for CESAR by the University of Maryland Survey Research Center, College Park. Fall '92 Poll conducted between November and December, 1992. Margin of error: ±3%.

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