

## ***Roadside Study of Reckless Drivers Shows Marijuana and Cocaine Use Among Persons Not Impaired by Alcohol***

A recently released study of Memphis, Tennessee reckless drivers who were not apparently impaired by alcohol (did not have an odor of alcohol, tested negative on breath analysis, or both) found that over one-half (59%) of the drivers tested positive by a rapid, on-site urinalysis for marijuana and/or cocaine. The drug test results were then compared with clinical assessments of intoxication conducted by police officers. Eighty-three percent of those drivers who were assessed as being moderately or extremely intoxicated tested positive by urinalysis for marijuana and/or cocaine, compared to 14% of persons assessed as being mildly or not intoxicated. The findings suggest that using only standard alcohol sobriety tests and breath analysis, many intoxicated reckless drivers stopped by police will appear to be drug-free.

### **Percentage of Reckless Drivers Not Apparently Impaired by Alcohol Who Tested Positive by Urinalysis for Marijuana and/or Cocaine, by Level of Officer's Clinical Assessment of Intoxication**

	Reckless Drivers Clinically Evaluated by Police Officers to Have:	
	No or Mild Intoxication (N=56)	Moderate or Extreme Intoxication (N=94)
Percent Positive for Marijuana and/or Cocaine:	14%	83%

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from D. Brookoff, C. Cook, C. Williams, and C. Mann. 1994. "Testing Reckless Drivers for Cocaine and Marijuana," The New England Journal of Medicine 331(8): 518-522. For more information contact Dr. Daniel Brookoff at (901) 726-8255.

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