

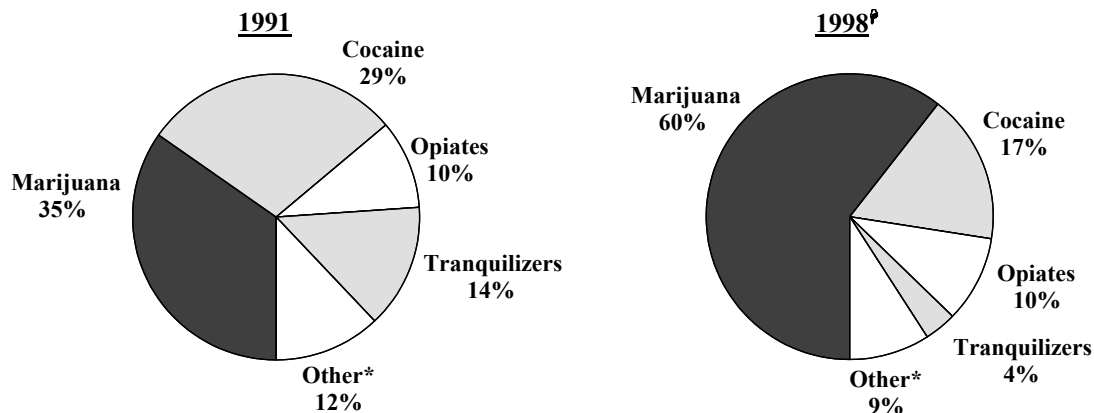
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Employee Drug Tests Reveal Shift in Drugs Detected Most Frequently; 60% of Positives Are for Marijuana, Less than 20% for Cocaine

Each year, SmithKline Beecham Clinical Laboratories (SBCL) conducts drug tests on over 3 million urine samples from workers across the U.S. According to their most recent drug testing index, 5% of all tests conducted in the first six months of 1998 were positive for at least one illicit drug, compared to 9% in 1991. Among the positive tests, there has been a dramatic shift in the drugs detected most frequently. Thirty-five percent of the positive tests in 1991 contained marijuana, compared to 60% of the positive test in the first six months of 1998. The percentage of positive tests containing cocaine declined from 29% to 17% over the same period. Similar trends in marijuana and cocaine use have been evident in other populations, such as arrestees and household residents (see CESAR FAX Volume 6, Issue 25 and Volume 7, Issue 30).

Drug Distribution of Positive Urine Tests Among U.S. Workers, 1991 and 1998[‡]



[‡]January through June 1998.

*The category "Other" includes amphetamines, barbiturates, methadone, methaqualone, PCP and propoxyphene.

NOTE: This data is from workers employed by companies that use SmithKline Beecham Clinical Laboratories' drug testing services. Reasons for testing include pre-employment, periodic, random, post-accident, for cause, and returned to duty.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from SmithKline Beecham Clinical Laboratories (SCBL), "400 Applicants Caught Attempting to Cheat Drug Test, SmithKline Beecham Drug Testing Index Reveals," WWW document; URL <http://www.sb.com/news/dti.html> (downloaded 10/29/98). For more information, contact Thomas Johnson of SBCL at 800-877-7478 or 610-454-6202.

CESAR Seeking Manager for Treatment Outcome Project

CESAR is currently seeking a project manager for a three-year substance abuse treatment outcome assessment. Applicants must have a Ph.D. in a relevant discipline. Grant-writing experience a plus. Please contact CESAR at 301-403-8329 or cesar@cesar.umd.edu for a complete job description.

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