

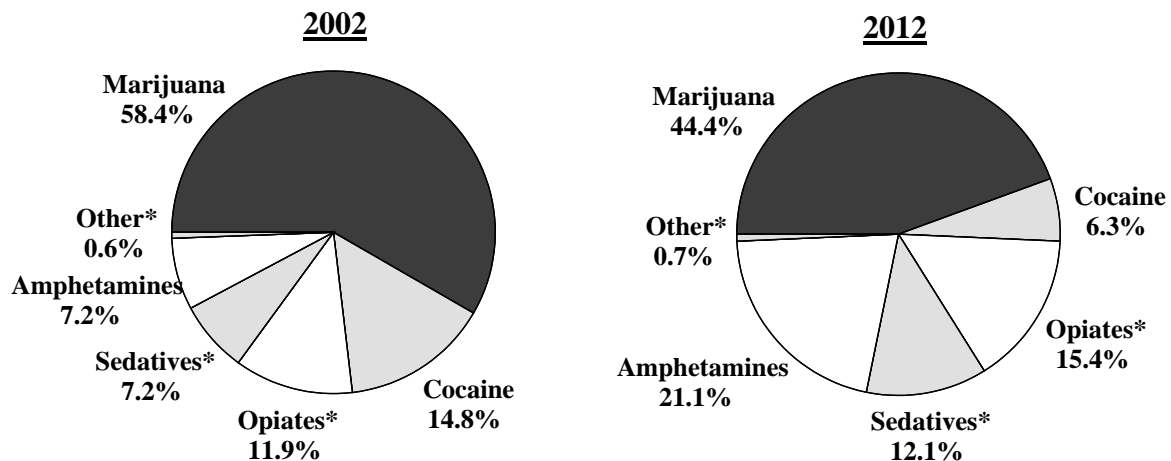
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Marijuana and Cocaine Now Account for Smaller Proportion of Positive Employee Drug Tests

Of the more than 6.7 million workplace urinalyses conducted by Quest Diagnostics in 2012, 3.5% tested positive for at least one illicit drug, slightly lower than the rate of 4.4% in 2002. While marijuana continues to be the drug most frequently detected, the percentage of positive drug tests containing marijuana has decreased over the past 10 years, from 58.4% in 2002 to 44.4% in 2012. The proportion containing cocaine also decreased, from 14.8% to 6.3%. At the same time, those containing amphetamines nearly tripled, from 7.2% to 21.1%. The percentage of positive drug tests containing opiates and those containing sedatives increased moderately (from 11.9% to 15.4%, and 7.2% to 12.1%, respectively) over the period.

Drugs Detected in Positive Urine Tests Among U.S. Workers, 2002 and 2012



*The category "opiates" comprises methadone, propoxyphene, oxycodone, and other opiates. The category "sedatives" comprises barbiturates and benzodiazepines. The category "other" comprises PCP, MDMA (only tested for in 2012), and 6-AM (only tested for in 2012).

NOTES: Data are from workers employed by companies that use Quest Diagnostics' drug testing services, including federally mandated, safety-sensitive workers. Reasons for testing include follow-up, for cause, periodic, post-accident, pre-employment, random, and returned to duty. Figures do not include acids/bases, adulterants, substituted urines, or invalid specimens.

SOURCES: Adapted by CESAR from Quest Diagnostics, "Drug Use Among American Workers Declined 74% Over Past 25 Years, Finds Unprecedented Analysis of More Than 125 Million Workplace Urine Drug Tests," 11/18/13 (Available online at <http://www.questdiagnostics.com/home/physicians/health-trends/drug-testing.html>); and Quest Diagnostics, "Amphetamine Use Increases in the General U.S. Workforce, According to Quest Diagnostics' 2002 Drug Testing Index," 5/27/13 (Available online at http://www.questdiagnostics.com/dms/Documents/DTI-Reports/2003-05-27_DTI.pdf). For more information, contact Wendy Bost at 973-520-2800.