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Statistics

* DAWN data suggests that the most likely Hydrocodone abuser is a 20-40 year old, white, female, who uses the drug because she is dependent or trying to commit suicide

* Employers with successful drug-free workplace programs report improvements in morale and productivity, and decreases in absenteeism, accidents, turnover and theft - NIDA

Baby Boomers Still Doing Drugs

According to a recent government survey by SAMHSA, roughly 8 percent of Americans ages 50 to 59 had used an illicit drug in the past year. Marijuana was the most commonly abused, but close behind was abuse of prescription drugs.

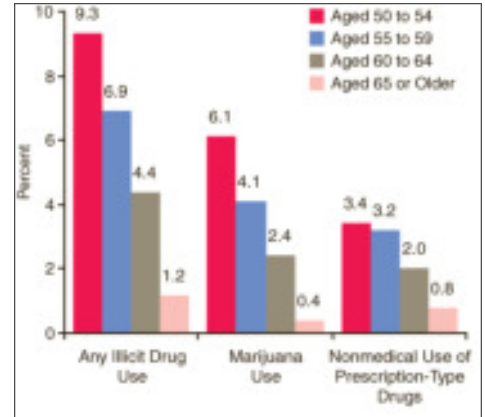
That's about 4.3 million adults over the age of 50 who are abusing drugs -- a number that far exceeds that of their parents' generation.

The driving force behind this trend is people who used drugs when they were younger and never really stopped. The percentage of

pot and pill abusers in this age group grew by more than 50 percent between 2002 and 2008, as more baby boomers turned 50.

The reported also stated that the projected increase in the number of older drug abusers is expected to double the demand for treatment services by 2020.

Health officials warn that lifelong drug use means a greater likelihood of health complications like lung cancer or heart attack, as users get older. Plus, these deeply rooted addictions can be more difficult, and more expensive, to treat.



Past year illicit drug uses among adults aged 50 and older, by age group, from 2006-2008

The full study can be found at: <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k9/168/168OlderAdults.htm>

Notes from Ray Kubacki



Raymond Kubacki, Chairman & CEO, Psychomedics Corporation

Dear Valued Clients and Friends,

Having just passed a milestone birthday recently myself, I am absolutely astounded at the number of older Americans (baby boomers and beyond) that are using drugs today.

As you know, the focus in the media and in most research tends to be on younger people, particularly high school students. However, as a recent study cited above shows once again, drugs sadly know no socioeconomic barriers at all.

And marijuana still remains the most popular drug of choice among the baby boomer group. While one's initial reaction is to say "grow up", unfortunately, that doesn't provide much of a deterrent to someone using drugs.

When I talk to clients about the advantages of random testing existing employees, I most often hear, "Gee, our employee base is more mature and, therefore, we have significantly less risks." Unfortunately, the data in the article above indicates that that is not the case. Random testing indeed can be a significant deterrent. And the data shows that this is definitely something that should be looked at no matter what the age profile of your workforce is.

*Best Personal Regards,
Ray*

Court Upholds Hair-Drug Tests for NYPD

Officials note a 90-day window for detecting drugs in hair samples, compared to about three days with urine

Drug testing with hair was recently supported in a recent New York Supreme Court case involving the New York Police Department.

NBC New York reported:

"New York's top court today upheld random drug testing of New York City police officers through hair samples, a method considered much more effective than urine tests.

The court rejected police

union arguments that any expanded use of the hair testing would have required contract negotiations."

"The detection and deterrence of wrongdoing within the NYPD-particularly crimes, such as illegal drug use -is a crucial component of the police commissioner's responsibility to maintain discipline within the force," Judge Susan Read wrote.

A 2005 internal department personnel message noted a

90-day window for detecting drugs in hair samples, compared to about three days with urine, and said drug users couldn't evade detection by substituting someone else's sample. Hair samples can come from any where on the body.

Senior counsel Julian Kalkstein, who represented the city in the case, said "To ensure sobriety by the department for its own safety and to instill



confidence in the community, we wanted to be able to use hair testing," he said."

(The hair test upheld in this case was a Psychemedics test.)

Link to Article: www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local-beat/Court-Upholds-Hair-Drug-Tests-for-NYPD-79545902.html

Cocaine and Heroin Cut With Deadly Substances



According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, levamisole has become increasingly popular as a "cut," or diluting agent, in cocaine and possibly some heroin. It is now found in 70% of all cocaine seized in the U.S., up from 30% in 2008. Levamisole, a drug that was once used to treat colon cancer but is now reserved for veterinary use as a medication to get rid of worms, can cause agranulocytosis (a severe form of leukemia) in humans. There have now been several dozen cases of cocaine-related agranulocytosis reported in North America — and one known death. Tests of cocaine users attending a drug clinic at San Francisco General Hospital in 2009 found that 90% of samples were positive for levamisole; similar tests in Seattle revealed that 80% of cocaine users there had levamisole in their systems. Levamisole is cheap, widely available and seems to have the right look, taste and melting point to go unnoticed by cocaine users, which may alone account for its popularity.

Article Link: <http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1955112,00.html?xid=rss-topstories#ixzz0dNLAjdmw>

There has also been 19 confirmed cases of anthrax infection in heroin users in Scotland, England and Germany. In addition to 9 Scottish deaths and one in Germany, England recently announced its first death from an anthrax infection and confirmed a second infection. Officials suspect a cutting agent is the source of the anthrax and contaminated heroin is still believed to be in circulation in Europe and Australia.

Article Link: <http://www.bioprepwatch.com/news/211985-german-heroin-users-death-linked-to-scottish-outbreak>

ASTOUNDING FACTS: The Cost of Drug Abuse to Society

Drug abuse and addiction are a major burden to society. Estimates of the total overall costs of substance abuse in the United States, including health and crime-related costs as well as losses in productivity, exceed half a trillion dollars annually. — NIDA

70% of the caseloads of state and local prosecutors is drug related crime. — American Prosecutors Research Institute

It is estimated that the hundred thousand drug-exposed babies born every year cost taxpayers \$20 billion annually. — CNOA (California Narcotics Officers' Association)

Recent Data Shows Other Hair Labs May Have a Hard Time Detecting Marijuana

Marijuana remains the most abused drug in the US. A recent SAMHSA report shows that 76% of drug users self report they use marijuana. For hair testing, marijuana poses some unique challenges and is difficult to test without the proper test methods and technology. Psychemedics spent many years of research not only in developing our ability to extract drugs by liquefying the hair, but also in solving the extraction, sample preparation and detection issues related to marijuana analysis. Subsequently, Psychemedics patented the methods by which marijuana can reliably be extracted and detected and because of this patent protection, other labs use alternative methods.

One of the major advantages of using a hair test is that drug users should be detected at a much higher rate. Recent paired data (hair and urine samples collected from the same donor on the same day – the only way to compare positive rates) released by another hair testing lab in December 2009 showed that the positive rate for marijuana in their urine and hair tests were identical. Even with the much shorter detection window of urinalysis, their hair test only detected the same percentage of marijuana users. Since other labs cannot use our patented process to deal with the marijuana challenges, this may account for the continued difficulty other labs have in detecting marijuana use. While the other lab's hair test (mentioned above) found no additional marijuana users than the urinalysis test, Psychemedics' hair test typically detects 4 to 7 more times the number of marijuana users than urinalysis. Overall, Psychemedics detects 5 to 18 times the number of drug users for all drug categories tested, when compared to urinalysis in paired data. With a Psychemedics hair test you can be confident in not only superior detection of marijuana, but superior detection of drug abuse.

Did You Know ??

Psychemedics was awarded the first CAP accreditation for drug testing with hair.

Psychemedics was awarded this honor by the Commission on Laboratory Accreditation of the College of American Pathologists (CAP), and the results were based on an on-site inspection of its facility. During the CAP accreditation process, inspectors examine the laboratory's records and quality control of procedures for the preceding two years. CAP inspectors also examine the entire staff's qualifications, the laboratory's equipment, facilities, safety program and record, as well as the overall management of the laboratory. This stringent inspection program is designed to specifically ensure the highest standard of care for the laboratory's customers.

* For many years, Psychemedics has also been CAP accredited for urine drug testing.

*Superior Detection
of Drug Abuse*

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About Psychemedics

Psychemedics was established in 1987 to provide testing for drugs of abuse using hair analysis, and has been successfully operating for over 20 years. Thousands of corporations currently rely on Psychemedics' patented hair analysis technology for their pre-employment and employee drug screening. Psychemedics is headquartered in Boston and has offices in Dallas, Chicago, Los Angeles and Las Vegas. Our Laboratory is located in Culver City, CA. Psychemedics is a publicly-held corporation listed on NASDAQ under the ticker symbol PMD.