

THE FACTS

About Drug Abuse

January 2012

Inside this issue:

- Drugged Driving: **2**
High Toll Among Young
- Drugs in the News **2**
- Astounding Facts **2**
- Student Drug Testing: **3**
At CBC High School
- Did You Know? **3**

Marijuana Use Up, Alcohol Use Down Among U.S. Teens

Results from the latest teen survey from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) are a mixed bag. The survey showed fewer teens are turning to alcohol and cigarettes than ever before. But the "Monitoring the Future" survey also found that marijuana use is rising steadily among America's teens.

The findings are based on a survey of 47,000 eighth-, 10th- and 12th-graders conducted by researchers at the University of Michigan on behalf of the NIDA. The researchers found one out of

every 15 high school seniors smokes pot on a daily or near-daily basis. That's the highest rate since 1981.

The percentage of teens saying they see "great risk" in using marijuana has dropped in recent years.

It's the fourth straight year marijuana use grew among teens compared with last decade when pot use declined among teens.

The survey found more than 36 percent of 12th-graders



used marijuana in the past year, compared to nearly 32 percent in the 2007 survey. Almost 29 percent of 10th-graders and 12.5 percent of eighth-graders used marijuana in the past year, the survey showed.

Source: <http://www.kens5.com/news/health/Report-Marijuana-use-up-alcohol-use-down-among-US-teens-135658253.html#>

Notes from Dr. George B. Elder



Dr. George Elder,
 Vice President, Schools & Colleges

Dear Colleagues,

I hope the long awaited Holiday Break was filled with faith, family, friends and a lot of rest. Here is what I have been thinking about over the break.

As you may or may not know, we have begun using our powerful deterrent testing to strengthen a number of college fraternity chapters. We have successfully supported the individual chapter's efforts to move away from "animal house" and back to the values of leadership, honor, character, real brotherhood and service, upon which most Greek organizations were founded. We successfully contributed to moving one particular chapter from questionable charter status to winning the most improved chapter award on campus (the highest award its National gives) and to winning the Grade Point Average trophy for the first time in 14 years.

I believe our hair testing program has the power to change the drug epidemic on our college campuses and who better to lead this effort than the Greek organizations? Consider taking your son or daughter to college knowing full well that the fraternity house/dorm are probably the perfect incubators for drug use. How reassuring would it be if the option existed for a fraternity or sorority that has the deterrence value of hair drug testing? The same holds true in our schools at a different level, but they too can enjoy the deterrence value of hair drug testing. Psychemedics is partnering with schools, colleges, and Greek organizations everyday to protect their students, brothers and sisters. Please spread the word and together we can win this fight, save our young people and protect their talent and intellect which is so desperately needed right now. We can no longer afford to wait. Call me today and let's talk about this life saving science.

Wishing you and yours a drug free, happy and healthy New Year!

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DRUG STATISTICS

Teens report that Ecstasy and other drugs were available at two-thirds of the raves they attended.

Teens whose parents talk to them about the dangers of drug use are 42% less likely to use drugs than those whose parents don't.

- www.teendrugabuse.com

Drugged driving report shows high toll among young

Drunk driving may get more attention, but driving while drugged also takes an enormous toll in the U.S. That's the word from the nation's drug czar, who along with Mothers Against Drunk Driving, launched a public awareness campaign to draw attention to drugged driving.

"Research shows that drugs have adverse effects on judgment, reaction time, and motor skills - all vital requirements for responsible driving," Gil Kerlikowske, director

of National Drug Control Policy, said in a written statement.

Maybe that's stating the obvious. But a new report Kerlihowkske pointed to includes a stark and surprising fact: In 2009, 3,952 drivers fatally injured in car crashes tested positive for drugs. That represents 18 percent of all fatally injured drivers.

One in four fatally injured drivers who tested positive were under the age of 25, according to the report. And data from 2005 to 2009 show



that 42 percent of fatally injured drivers who tested positive for marijuana were under 25.

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504763_162-20119985-10391704.html

Drugs In The News

Kindergartner Brings Mom's Crack Pipe to School

A kindergartner took his mother's crack pipe and methamphetamine to show-and-tell.

School administrators contacted police when the young boy removed the items from his backpack in the school's hallway.

The kindergartner's mother was charged with possession of a controlled substance and first degree endangering the welfare of a child.

<http://tinyurl.com/c43sqvx>

Marijuana Shaped Candy Alarms Parents

Candy shaped like marijuana that's showing up on store shelves around the country won't get kids high, but aghast city leaders and anti-drug activists say the product and grocers carrying it represent a new low.

The "Pothead Ring Pots," "Pothead Lollipops" and bagged candy are distributed to retail stores. It also wholesales online for \$1 for a lollipop and \$1.50 for a package of three rings.

The bags of "Pothead Sour Gummy Candy," and lollipops shaped like marijuana leaves appear to be a recent addition to the inventory of some stores. The sour apple-flavored candy contains nothing illegal, but with its marijuana leaf, the word "Legalize" and a joint-smoking, peace sign-waving user on the packaging, critics say it's not only in poor taste but an invitation to try the real thing.

<http://tinyurl.com/8xy7lt6>

New Drug Gains

Popularity Among Teens

Doctors at a Santa Barbara addiction treatment center say it's a growing trend in teen drug use. This new drug is the purest form of an already popular street drug- Ecstasy.

Drug dealers market "Molly" as the "purest" form of Ecstasy. Once the drug wears off, the long terms effects include severe depression or brain damage. Doctors warn it is easy to come by, even available over the internet in some cases.

<http://tinyurl.com/8acyxre>

ASTOUNDING FACTS

TEENS DRINKING BLEACH TO PASS (Urine) DRUG TESTS

There is a popular trend among young people who try to beat urine tests -- ingesting bleach. Household bleach strips chemicals and odors from surfaces, so you can only imagine what it does when consumed. Not only can it eat away at your esophagus and cause bodily damage, it can also cause death.

http://www.fox10tv.com/dpp/news/local_news/mobile_county/police-teens-drinking-bleach-to-pass-drug-tests

DRUG TESTING A GIVEN AT CBC HIGH SCHOOL

Catholic Boys Private School Has Tested Students For Five Years

More students at Christian Brothers College High School are saying no to drugs these days and the 161-year-old Town and Country school knows that for sure. It's celebrating five years of annual mandatory drug testing for all students.

Jane Eschmann is the school's assistant principal and administrator of the program at the college prep school. "In the five years we've done this, we've had a total of eight students who've had to withdraw from school, out of well over 5,000 tests given to students," she said. "We think that's a pretty phenomenal number."

This school year, 860 CBC students in grades 9 to 12 were given a hair test for drugs in the first semester. In the second semester, about 25 to 33 percent of students will be randomly selected to be tested again with the testing starting in January.

Testing is conducted by Psychemedics. The company has done CBC's testing since the start and tests for marijuana, methamphetamines, cocaine, PCP, heroin, opiates, and ecstasy. Using a small sample of hair, about 1.5 inches long, the test can identify whether use is light, moderate or heavy and can provide an approximation of when the drug was last used.

In his 23 years as president of CBC, Mike England said the drug testing "has been one of the most positive things that's ever happened to our school. Our kids take pride that we're the only school in the state, as far as we know, that does mandatory drug testing for the entire student body and that the numbers are what they are."

Parents find the program reassuring, while students take it in stride. England's son, Tom, is a senior.

"He tells me the test is absolutely no big deal," England said. "When he passes, a letter comes home from Ms. Eschmann congratulating him on passing. As a parent, that's a wonderful thing to get, a letter that tells you 100 percent that everything is OK."

Eschmann said hair testing, which has always been the methodology used, is harder to mask than a urine test.

"Drugs only stay in urine for a few days, but hair testing gives you a 90-day window of usage," she said. "Also, a hair test is very noninvasive." Hair is taken by a school nurse and sent to the company for processing, with the envelope with the hair sealed right in front of the student.

Eschmann admits that even positive drug tests have allowed students and parents to open up lines of communication.

"I get letters from parents saying thank you for doing this, this may have saved my son's life, because they had no idea drug use was going on," she said.



The president of Christian Brothers College High School was the first person at the school ever drug tested. All students have a hair test annually.

Read the full news article at: <http://tinyurl.com/7726w99>

Did You Know ??

Psychemedics Recognized Internationally For Highest Quality Laboratory Standards

Psychemedics' laboratory was recently awarded ISO/IEC 17025 International Accreditation. This recognition is only given to a select group of laboratories worldwide, and the independent evaluation provides assurance of the laboratory's ability to maintain quality standards, provide consistent results and continually improve customer satisfaction levels while conforming to international standards.

Read the full press release: <http://www.psychemedics.com/blog/page/3/>

*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 25 years. Thousands of corporations currently rely on Psychemedics' proprietary 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.