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2025 Education Insights Report

Understanding Emerging Drug Trends, Legalization Challenges, and the Impact of Hair Testing on Safer School Communities

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Executive Summary

The 2025 Psychemedics Education Insights Report offers a comprehensive analysis of substance use trends affecting students, faculty, and school communities nationwide. As the global leader in hair drug testing, Psychemedics analyzed thousands of hair samples in 2024, offering unmatched visibility into long-term drug use behaviors within educational environments.

This year's report explores the prevalence of student and staff drug use, the growing threat of synthetic opioids, rising misuse of prescription stimulants, and the increasing normalization of high-potency marijuana among youth. It also examines the impact of evolving legalization laws, many of which conflict with the responsibilities schools carry to protect minors and uphold academic integrity.

Armed with the insights in this report, school leaders, counselors, and administrators can strengthen drug prevention strategies, inform policy updates, and proactively address emerging risks. The data clearly shows that institutions partnering with Psychemedics see dramatically lower positive drug test rates, demonstrating the powerful role of accountability and advanced detection in shaping safer, healthier learning environments.

The 2025 report highlights the crucial role of hair testing in education, offering early insights, supporting interventions, and enabling schools to stay ahead in a rapidly evolving drug landscape.

Introduction

As substance use trends continue to evolve, so must our strategies for protecting students, faculty, and the integrity of our learning environments. Psychemedics is proud to present the 2025 Education Insights Report, a comprehensive analysis of drug use patterns and their potential impact across the education landscape.

Drawing on the largest database of hair drug testing results in the industry, this report offers unique insight into long-term drug use trends among students and staff. In 2024, Psychemedics analyzed thousands of hair samples from individuals across academic institutions, including high schools, colleges, and universities. With a 90-day detection window, hair testing offers unparalleled insight into behavioral patterns, far beyond the reach of traditional screening methods like urine or oral fluid.

This year's report sheds light on emerging threats such as high-potency marijuana, counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl, and rising rates of stimulant and party drug use. We explore the implications of these trends on student safety, academic performance, and institutional liability. Additionally, a five-year retrospective reveals how substance use has shifted in academic populations and what challenges may be on the horizon for school administrators, counselors, and student affairs leaders.

At Psychemedics, our mission is to empower educational institutions with science-driven tools and data to foster safer, healthier communities. As substance use becomes more complex, our role is to provide clarity, helping schools implement effective policies, intervene early, and protect the well-being of those they serve.

By leveraging the insights in this report, educators and administrators can gain a deeper understanding of today's drug landscape and take proactive steps to support student achievement and campus safety.

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Methodology

Psychemedics' proprietary hair testing technology is based on the science of drug incorporation into hair, ensuring highly accurate and reliable results. The process follows a scientifically validated workflow that allows for detection across various drug classes, including opioids, marijuana, nicotine, amphetamines, benzodiazepines, cocaine, synthetic drugs, alcohol, and fentanyl.

How Drugs are Incorporated into Hair

Drug testing through hair analysis is rooted in scientific principles of drug metabolism and hair growth. When an individual consumes drugs, those substances travel through the bloodstream and become embedded in the hair shaft as it grows. This process provides a long-term record of drug use, making hair testing one of the most reliable and tamper-proof methods for drug screening available.

The graphic below illustrates the four key stages of drug incorporation into hair:

This process makes hair testing superior to other screening methods, as it captures a long-term pattern of use rather than just recent exposure, ensuring more accurate and reliable results.

How Hair Samples Are Analyzed at Psychemedics

Once a hair sample is received at Psychemedics, it undergoes a rigorous multi-step analysis process to ensure accurate and reliable drug detection. Our industry-leading technology and proprietary scientific methodologies set us apart, delivering the most precise drug screening results available.

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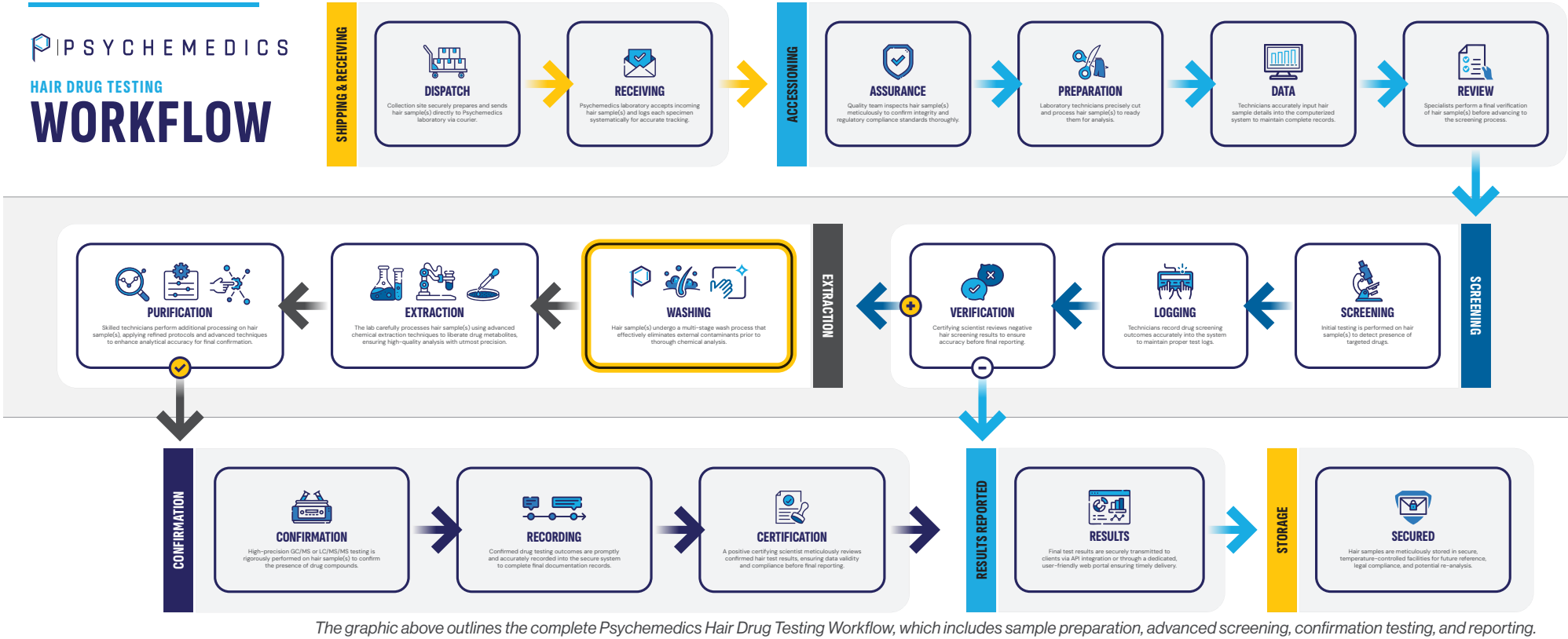
HAIR DRUG TESTING

WORKFLOW



The graphic above outlines the complete Psychemedics Hair Drug Testing Workflow, which includes sample preparation, advanced screening, confirmation testing, and reporting.

Scientific Validity and Reliability

Psychemedics' patented technology offers the highest level of accuracy and sensitivity in hair drug testing, outperforming conventional screening methods.

- **Advanced Detection Capabilities:** Psychemedics' testing detects drug use for up to 90 days, far exceeding the detection window of urine (1-7 days) and oral fluid (24-48 hours).
- **Resistant to Evasion:** Unlike urine testing, hair testing cannot be easily cheated, diluted, or tampered with.
- **Stringent Quality Controls:** Every sample undergoes a rigorous chain-of-custody process, ensuring the integrity of results.

By leveraging Psychemedics' industry-leading hair testing methodology, schools and universities gain unparalleled insight into patterns of student and staff drug use, enabling earlier intervention, safer learning environments, and long-term protection of academic and community well-being.

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Key Findings

Persistent Marijuana Use Despite Legal Barriers: Delta-9 THC positive rates have remained consistently high across education samples over the past five years, ranging from 3.04% to 3.71%, underscoring ongoing marijuana use despite age restrictions and school policies.

Delta-8 THC Reveals Policy Gaps: Although still emerging, Delta-8 THC was detected in education samples in 2024, 0.5% of samples tested positive for both Delta-8 and Delta-9 THC, and 0.03% were positive for Delta-8 THC only, suggesting intentional evasion of traditional drug policies and highlighting the need for clearer policy language around Delta-8 THC.

Faculty Positivity Rates Are Lower, But Not Zero: While students represent the majority of positive tests, faculty samples showed a 2.8% marijuana positivity rate in 2024, along with measurable rates for cocaine (0.7%) and opioids (1.1%), indicating the importance of maintaining screening programs for all school personnel.

Fentanyl Risks Expand Beyond Opioid Users: Fentanyl continues to show up in counterfeit pills and is increasingly being mixed with other substances like marijuana and cocaine, posing fatal risks to unsuspecting students in both recreational and experimental settings.

Polydrug Use Presents Overdose Risk: Hair testing results and national trend data show frequent mixing of substances, such as alcohol with marijuana or stimulants, which significantly increases the risk of overdose and erratic behavior on school grounds.

Schools That Implement Hair Testing See Dramatic Impact: While national studies report over 30% of students use illicit drugs annually, schools that implement Psychemedics programs report an average positive rate of just 4.4%, proving the effectiveness of structured prevention efforts.

Legalization Is Shifting Student Perceptions: The ongoing expansion of marijuana legalization continues to reduce risk perception among students. With many unaware of the legal age restrictions or the potency of today's products, schools face an uphill battle without proactive drug education and testing strategies.

Current Drug Trends

The drug landscape in the U.S. is rapidly evolving, shaped by shifting social norms, legalization movements, and the emergence of new synthetic substances. For educational institutions, these changes present serious implications for student safety, faculty well-being, and campus integrity. Insights from national health authorities such as the CDC and NIDA, combined with Psychemedics' testing data, reveal concerning patterns that schools must address head-on.

Delta-8 vs. Delta-9 THC: A Growing Challenge in School Drug Policies

As marijuana legalization expands, the detection of various THC analogs, including Delta-8 THC, has become increasingly important for schools and student safety. Psychemedics' hair testing technology is uniquely capable of distinguishing between Delta-8 and Delta-9 THC, which is critical as many students and adults mistakenly believe Delta-8 is "legal" or undetectable.

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Current Drug Trends Continued

Testing for both Delta-8 and Delta-9 is essential to fully understand the extent of use. In many cases, one cannabinoid may appear low, such as a Delta-9 THC level of 2.3 pg/10 mg hair, suggesting only occasional use. However, without testing for Delta-8, critical information may be missed. In some instances, Delta-8 levels may be in the hundreds, revealing a pattern of heavy or habitual use that would otherwise go unnoticed. Comprehensive THC testing ensures parents and school administrators are equipped with the full picture, enabling appropriate responses and interventions.

Using a 0.5 pg/10 mg hair cutoff, Psychemedics tracked cTHC positives from 2019 to 2024 in the education sector. While Delta-9 (traditional marijuana) remains the dominant cannabinoid detected, Delta-8 THC findings are emerging, especially in the last year:

Key 2023-2024 Findings:

Synthetic drugs continue to challenge employers and public health officials alike. While opioids and marijuana remain major concerns, emerging synthetic substances are complicating drug detection and enforcement efforts.

- **Delta-9 THC** positivity among education samples has remained persistently high over the past five years, ranging from 3.04% to 3.71%, with 2024 showing a 3.04% positive rate, highlighting ongoing marijuana use despite regulatory and educational efforts.
- 0.5% of samples tested positive for **both Delta-8 and Delta-9 THC** in 2024.
- Only Delta-8 THC was detected in 0.03% of samples, accounting for 18% of all dual Delta-8/Delta-9 detections.
- These Delta-8-only positives may represent intentional circumvention of marijuana policies, as Delta-8 products are often marketed as legal alternatives.

Why It Matters:

The increasing legalization of marijuana continues to present challenges for drug testing. However, the concern is not just legality – it's the dramatic rise in THC potency over the past decade.

- **Policy Loopholes:** Delta-8 THC is derived from hemp and has been available in gas stations and online, often falling outside school drug policy language.
- **Health & Safety Risk:** Despite its marketing, Delta-8 THC produces psychoactive effects similar to Delta-9 THC and has been linked to health risks.
- **Detection Gap:** Traditional urine or oral fluid tests may not reliably distinguish or detect these cannabinoids, creating a blind spot for educators.

Emerging Synthetic and Designer Drug Threats

Synthetic drugs pose a growing danger on school campuses and in surrounding communities. While marijuana and opioids continue to dominate headlines, newer substances are infiltrating student populations and challenging detection protocols.

- **Xylazine ("Tranq"):** This powerful veterinary sedative is increasingly found in counterfeit pills and street drugs, particularly fentanyl. It can cause extreme sedation, severe wounds, and death. The CDC has reported a staggering 1,238% increase in xylazine-related overdose deaths in recent years, making it a rising concern for youth health and safety.
- **Nitazenes:** These ultra-potent synthetic opioids are up to 20 times stronger than fentanyl. Their potency and presence in fake prescriptions dramatically raise the risk of accidental overdoses among teens and young adults.
- **Flakka & Bath Salts:** These synthetic stimulants have been linked to erratic behavior and violence. While not as widespread as other substances, they are making a resurgence in certain areas and remain a high-risk category for schools.

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High-Potency Marijuana and Student Risk

The legalization and commercialization of marijuana have led to a surge in potency, with profound implications for adolescents and young adults.

- **THC Concentration:** Average THC levels have risen from 4% in the 1990s to over 20% today. Concentrations like wax, vapes, and edibles often contain 60-90% THC, levels that significantly impair cognition and decision-making.
- **Academic Impact:** Research has shown a correlation between early marijuana use and lower academic performance, increased dropout risk, and impaired memory. The normalization of high-potency cannabis products increases these risks across student populations.

The Expanding Fentanyl Crisis

Despite national awareness campaigns, fentanyl continues to drive overdose deaths, increasingly affecting young people.

- **Counterfeit Pills:** Fentanyl is now frequently found in pills sold as Xanax, Percocet, or Adderall, posing a deadly risk to students who may experiment or self-medicate.
- **Party Drugs Laced with Fentanyl:** Fentanyl is increasingly appearing in recreational drugs like MDMA and cocaine, putting students at risk during social gatherings or parties.
- **Fentanyl in Marijuana:** Some regions have reported fentanyl-laced cannabis, meaning even casual use may now carry fatal consequences.

Stimulants and the Pressure to Perform

Academic pressure is fueling increased misuse of stimulants and other performance-enhancing drugs.

- **Adderall & Ritalin Misuse:** Often perceived as harmless "study aides," students in high school and college are misusing these prescription stimulants to stay awake, focus, or gain a competitive edge.
- **Methamphetamine:** Although less common in education settings, methamphetamine use is increasing in some regions, driven by its growing availability and high potency.

Psychedelics and Normalization Trends

The growing popularity of psychedelics among youth, especially in college communities, is raising red flags.

- **Microdosing:** Students are experimenting with small doses of LSD or psilocybin as a way to boost creativity or reduce anxiety. While decriminalization is gaining traction in some states, long-term effects on mental health remain uncertain.
- **Perception vs. Reality:** As stigma around psychedelics decreases, schools must balance open dialogue with proactive safety measures and clear expectations.

Alcohol and Polydrug Use Among Students

Alcohol remains one of the most widely used substances among students, often used in combination with other drugs.

- **Binge Drinking:** Despite prevention efforts, binge drinking persists on campuses and continues to be a factor in academic struggles, assaults, and accidents.
- **Combining Substances:** Students frequently mix alcohol with marijuana, benzodiazepines, or stimulants, dramatically increasing the risk of overdose or dangerous behavior.

Implications for Schools and Campus Safety

The increasing complexity of student drug use demands a more advanced approach to prevention and detection. Traditional testing methods like urine or oral fluid often fail to detect intermittent or long-term substance use. Hair testing provides a 90-day window of detection, allowing school administrators to identify patterns of behavior, not just isolated incidents.

With the rise of high-potency substances, deceptive pill markets, and shifting drug perceptions, schools must take a proactive stance, implementing robust drug education programs, clear policy enforcement, and science-based screening tools. Psychemedics remains a trusted partner in helping educational institutions maintain safe, healthy, and drug-free environments for both students and staff.

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Legislation Landscape

As of January 2025, the marijuana legalization landscape in the United States continues to shift rapidly, presenting new and complex challenges for educational institutions. While 24 states and Washington, D.C. have legalized recreational marijuana and 39 states permit medical use, many students, particularly in K-12 settings, remain under the legal age for cannabis consumption. This disconnect between public policy and student legality creates a precarious situation for schools tasked with protecting minors while navigating evolving laws.

Several states, including Kentucky, have recently enacted medical marijuana laws, while others like Pennsylvania, Hawaii, and Texas are actively debating full legalization. National momentum is trending toward broader access to cannabis, both medically and recreationally. Meanwhile, the DEA is currently reviewing whether to reschedule cannabis from a Schedule I to a Schedule III substance, which could reduce federal restrictions but may also shift public perception, particularly among young adults.

What Legalization Means for Schools and Universities

Legalization in a state does not mean marijuana use is acceptable or safe on school grounds. In fact, nearly all state laws maintain strict prohibitions against cannabis use on school property or by individuals under the age of 21. However, these legal distinctions are often misunderstood by students, leading to increased use and decreased perception of risk.

- **Increased Accessibility and Exposure:** As dispensaries become more common and marijuana products more commercialized, underage students are finding it easier to access high-THC products, including edibles, vapes, and concentrates.
- **Normalization of Use:** Legalization has contributed to a reduced perception of harm among teens and college students. Many now view marijuana as a low-risk, socially acceptable substance, despite evidence linking adolescent use to cognitive impairment, mental health challenges, and reduced academic performance.
- **On-Campus Incidents:** Colleges and high schools across the country are reporting more disciplinary issues related to marijuana, including possession, distribution, and intoxication during school hours or school events.

The Role of Educational Institutions

Schools at every level, K-12, trade, and higher education, must balance legal developments with their obligation to maintain safe, focused learning environments. This includes:

- **Policy Reinforcement:** Clear, enforceable drug policies that outline prohibited behavior and align with both state law and institutional standards are essential. These should address not only use and possession but also impairment on campus.
- **Parental and Community Engagement:** Communication with parents and community partners is critical to reinforcing shared expectations, especially as minors navigate a more permissive social landscape outside of school.
- **Proactive Detection:** Traditional testing methods often miss early-stage or intermittent use, especially with substances like THC. Hair testing offers a 90-day detection window, enabling schools to identify patterns of use and intervene earlier, particularly in cases where safety or academic progress is at risk.

A Caution for Institutions Serving Minors

For schools serving students under 18, legalization introduces a uniquely complex set of risks. Even in states where marijuana is legal for adults, use by minors remains prohibited, but enforcement becomes harder in the face of widespread availability and misinformation. The legal age distinction becomes increasingly blurred as students obtain products through older peers, social media, or black-market sources that often include dangerously high-potency or adulterated drugs.

As substance laws continue to evolve, school leaders must stay informed, vigilant, and ahead of the curve. Psychemedics remains committed to supporting educational institutions through this transition, offering reliable testing solutions and expert guidance to help schools safeguard their students and fulfill their duty of care in an increasingly complex environment.

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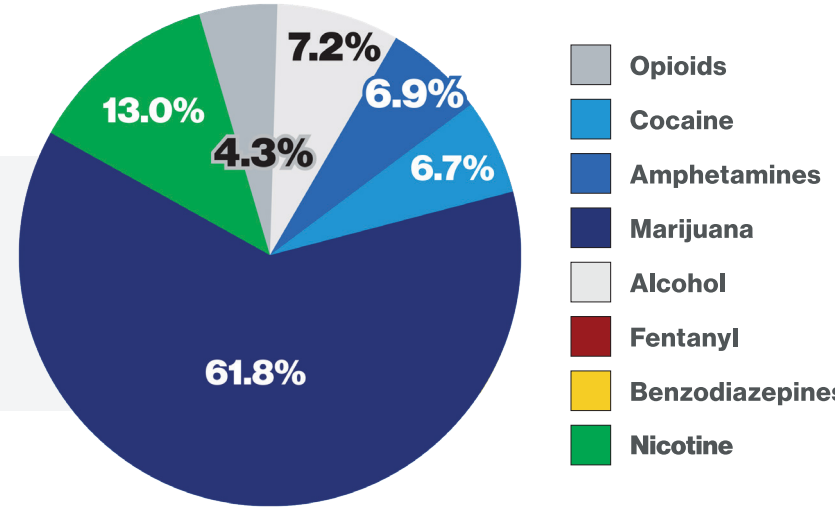
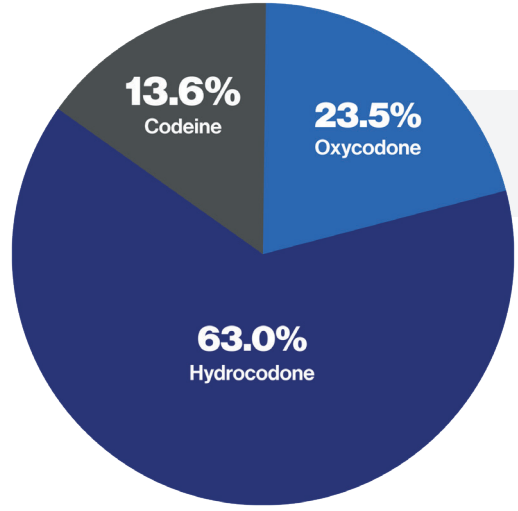
2024 Positive Rate for Drugs Tested

Overall Positive Rate:
4.4%

Distribution of Positives by Drug Class

This chart represents the composition of the overall positive rate in each drug class for which was tested.





This chart represents analytes present and detected during the screen for Opioids.

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Amphetamines. Amphetamines are stimulant drugs that increase activity in the central nervous system. They are commonly used to treat conditions like attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and narcolepsy. Amphetamines can also be abused for their euphoric effects and to increase alertness and energy.

Alcohol. Alcohol is a central nervous system depressant that is widely consumed for recreational and social purposes. It affects cognitive and motor functions, leading to impaired judgment, coordination, and reaction time. Chronic alcohol use can contribute to addiction, liver disease, cardiovascular issues, and mental health disorders. In workplace settings, alcohol impairment can lead to safety risks, decreased productivity, and increased absenteeism.

Benzodiazepines. Benzodiazepines are a class of psychoactive drugs used to treat anxiety, insomnia, and seizures. They work by enhancing the effects of the neurotransmitter gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) in the brain, leading to sedative and calming effects. Benzodiazepines are prescribed medically but can also be abused for their sedative effects.

Cocaine. Cocaine is a powerful stimulant drug derived from the coca plant. It is commonly found in the form of white powder, which is usually snorted, rubbed into the gums, or dissolved and injected. Cocaine is known for its short-lived but intense euphoric effects.

Fentanyl. Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid similar to but more potent than morphine. It is used medically for pain relief, especially for severe pain such as that experienced by cancer patients. Fentanyl is also used illicitly and is a major contributor to the opioid epidemic due to its potency and high risk of overdose.

Marijuana. Marijuana, also known as cannabis, is a psychoactive drug derived from the cannabis plant. It contains various psychoactive compounds, with delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) being the most well-known and studied. Marijuana is typically consumed by smoking, vaporizing, or ingesting it.

Delta 8 THC. Delta-8 tetrahydrocannabinol (Delta-8 THC) is a psychoactive cannabinoid found in trace amounts in the cannabis plant. It is chemically similar to Delta-9 THC, the main intoxicating compound in marijuana, but is typically derived from hemp through a chemical conversion process. Delta-8 is marketed as a milder, legal alternative to Delta-9, often sold in vapes, edibles, and oils, particularly in states where recreational marijuana remains illegal. However, it still produces intoxicating effects and can impair cognitive function, reaction time, and decision-making. The lack of federal regulation and inconsistent product labeling has raised concerns about its safety, particularly among adolescents and young adults.

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Opioids. Opioids are a class of drugs derived from the opium poppy plant or synthetically produced. They include drugs such as morphine, heroin, and codeine. Opioids are known for their pain-relieving properties and are often used medically for pain management.

6-MAM. 6-MAM is a metabolite of heroin, serving as a key biomarker for heroin use. It is rapidly produced in the body after heroin consumption before further breaking down into morphine. Due to its short half-life, detecting 6-MAM in drug testing confirms recent heroin use. Heroin is a highly addictive opioid that poses serious health risks, including respiratory depression, overdose, and death.

Codeine. Codeine is a prescription opioid used to treat mild to moderate pain and as a cough suppressant. It is metabolized in the body into morphine, contributing to its pain-relieving effects. While it is considered less potent than other opioids, prolonged use can lead to dependency, respiratory depression, and misuse. Codeine is sometimes combined with other medications, such as acetaminophen or promethazine, which can increase its risks when abused.

Hydrocodone. Hydrocodone is a semi-synthetic opioid used to manage moderate to severe pain. Often combined with acetaminophen or ibuprofen, it is one of the most commonly prescribed opioids in the United States. Hydrocodone can produce euphoria, leading to misuse and addiction. Long-term use can result in physical dependence and withdrawal symptoms, contributing to the ongoing opioid crisis.

Hydromorphone. Hydromorphone is a potent opioid analgesic prescribed for severe pain management, particularly in cases where other pain medications are ineffective. It is significantly more potent than morphine and has a high potential for addiction and abuse. Hydromorphone use can cause respiratory depression, drowsiness, and cognitive impairment, making it a serious concern for workplace safety.

Morphine. Morphine is a naturally occurring opioid used for the treatment of moderate to severe pain, especially in post-surgical and palliative care settings. It is highly effective but carries a significant risk of dependence and abuse. Morphine's effects include pain relief, sedation, and respiratory depression, with overdose potentially leading to fatal respiratory failure.

Oxymorphone. Oxymorphone is a potent opioid analgesic used for managing severe pain in patients who require long-term opioid treatment. It has a high risk of addiction and abuse, particularly due to its potent effects. Misuse of oxymorphone can lead to respiratory depression, overdose, and fatal consequences, making it a target for regulatory control and monitoring in drug testing programs.

Oxycodone. Oxycodone is a widely used prescription opioid for moderate to severe pain relief. It is available in immediate-release and extended-release formulations, with brand names such as OxyContin and Percocet. Oxycodone's euphoric effects contribute to its high abuse potential, leading to significant addiction rates and overdose risks. It remains a key focus in opioid crisis interventions and workplace drug screening programs.

Phencyclidine (PCP). Phencyclidine (PCP) is a dissociative drug originally developed as an anesthetic. It is now rarely used medically but is abused for its hallucinogenic effects. PCP can induce hallucinations, distorted perceptions of reality, and feelings of detachment from oneself and one's surroundings.

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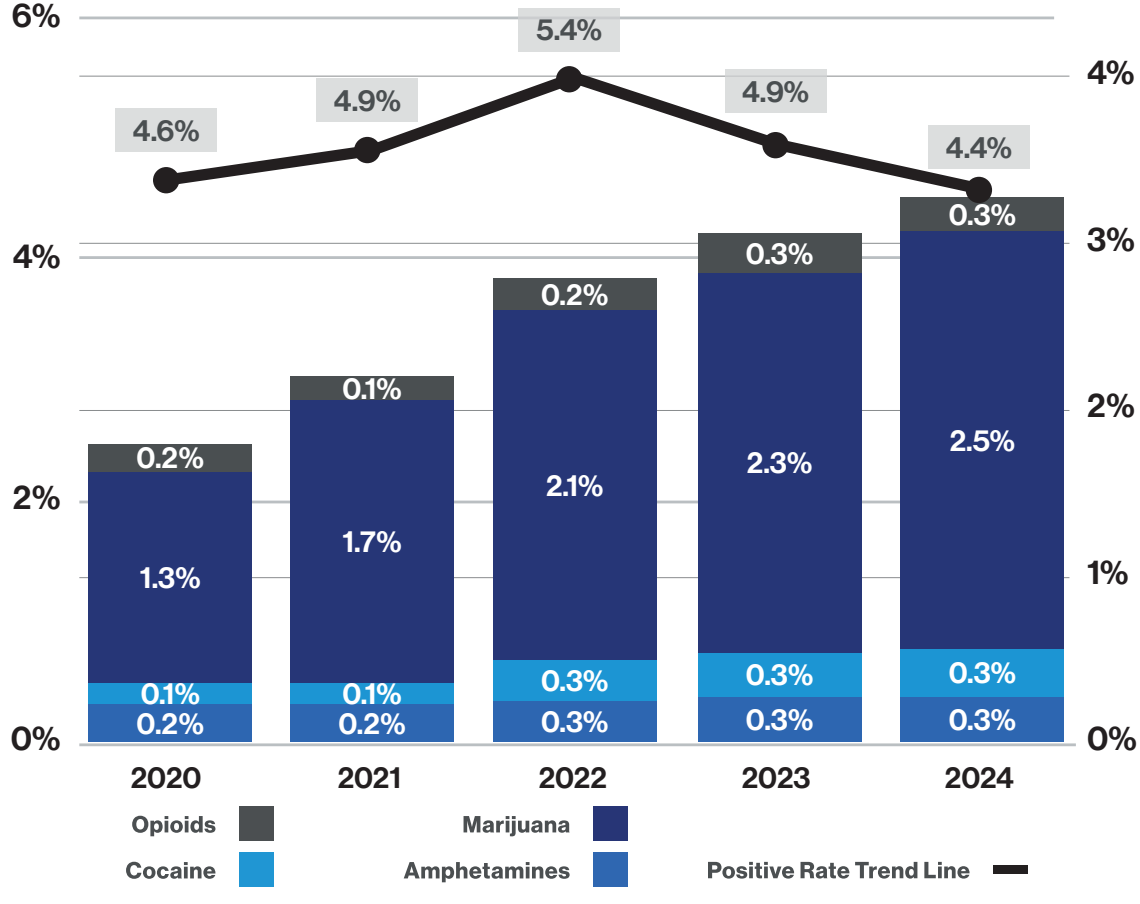
5-Year Lookback | Trends & Patterns

Understanding emerging drug trends underscores the importance of ongoing testing; especially in schools, where substance use can threaten student safety, academic performance, and well-being. Hair testing remains a vital tool for identifying long-term drug use and supporting a safe, drug-free learning environment.

5-Year Lookback | By Drug Type



The "y" axis on the chart represents % Positive Results (Total Number of Positives / Total Processed Volume). The trend line spanning all bars in the chart represents the overall percentage of positive results year-over-year.

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Hair Testing: Benefits and Advantages

Hair testing for drug use offers several key benefits and advantages over other testing methods such as urine or blood tests. In this section, we will delve into the details of these benefits and explain why hair testing is considered a superior method for detecting drug use in education.

Longer Detection Window: One of the most significant advantages of hair testing is its longer detection window compared to other methods. While urine tests can typically detect drug use within the past few days, hair testing can detect drug use over a much longer period, typically 90 days or even longer depending on the length of the hair sample. This longer detection window provides a more comprehensive view of an individual's drug use history, making it more difficult for individuals to conceal recent drug use.

Accuracy: Hair testing is known for its high level of accuracy. The process of drug incorporation into the hair is well understood, and the testing methods are highly sensitive and specific. The accuracy of hair testing makes it a reliable tool for schools seeking to maintain a drug-free campus.

Non-Invasive: Unlike blood tests, which require a needle stick, or urine tests, which require the collection of a urine sample, hair testing is non-invasive and easy to administer. A small sample of hair, typically taken from the scalp, is all that is needed for the test. This makes hair testing a more comfortable and convenient option for both students and faculty.

Deterrent Effect: The knowledge that hair testing can detect drug use over a long period can act as a deterrent for individuals considering using drugs. Knowing that drug use could be detected months after the fact may discourage individuals from engaging in drug use in the first place, leading to a safer and more productive workplace.

Difficult to Cheat: Hair testing is difficult to cheat. While it is possible to adulterate urine samples or use masking agents to try to hide drug use, these methods are much less effective against hair testing. The structure of hair makes it difficult to tamper with, and attempts to do so are usually easily detected by the testing lab.

Comprehensive Testing: Hair testing can detect a wide range of drugs, including marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, opiates, and more. This comprehensive testing capability makes hair testing a versatile tool for institutions looking to screen for multiple drugs simultaneously.

Cost-Effective: While hair testing may initially seem more expensive than other testing methods, such as urine testing, it can actually be more cost-effective in the long run. Because hair testing has a longer detection window, employers may be able to conduct fewer tests over time, saving money on testing costs.

Hair testing offers a range of benefits and advantages that make it a superior method for detecting drug use. Its longer detection window, high level of accuracy, non-invasiveness, and deterrent effect make it an attractive option for schools seeking to maintain a safe and drug-free campus.

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Conclusion

The 2025 Psychemedics Education Insights Report offers a deep look into the evolving substance use trends affecting schools, colleges, and universities. From the rising prevalence of synthetic opioids and high-potency marijuana to the growing normalization of prescription drug misuse and psychedelics, educational institutions face mounting challenges in maintaining safe, drug-free environments.

Layered atop these trends is the increasingly complex legalization landscape, which has altered student perceptions of risk and accessibility, particularly for underage users. These shifts have made traditional prevention efforts more difficult, requiring a stronger and more science-driven response from schools.

Hair testing remains the most effective drug screening tool available to educators today. Unlike urine or oral fluid testing, which detect only recent use, Psychemedics' patented hair testing technology offers a 90-day window into behavioral patterns. This makes it a powerful tool not only for early detection and intervention but also for fostering real accountability and reducing recurrence.

Perhaps most compelling is the measurable impact of implementing these programs. According to the Monitoring the Future study, over 30% of high school students used an illicit drug in the past year. In contrast, schools that have partnered with Psychemedics report an average 4.4% positive rate, a staggering reduction that demonstrates the effectiveness of structured, science-backed drug prevention initiatives. When students know that a program is in place, and that it works, they're more likely to make safer choices.

As the drug landscape continues to shift, educational institutions must remain proactive. Psychemedics is proud to support schools across the country in building safer campuses, protecting student health, and reinforcing academic success through best-in-class drug detection and prevention solutions.

About Psychemedics

Psychemedics Corporation is a leading global provider of innovative hair testing for drugs of abuse. With over 30 years of experience, Psychemedics has pioneered the science of hair testing and provides clients with the most accurate and reliable hair drug test results in the industry. The company's patented technology is used by thousands of companies worldwide to screen applicants and employees for drug use, helping to create safer and more productive workplaces.

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