

The Results Are In: Forward Edge Shows What's Popular and What's Not

Drug Tests in schools show the latest trends in the drugs of choice

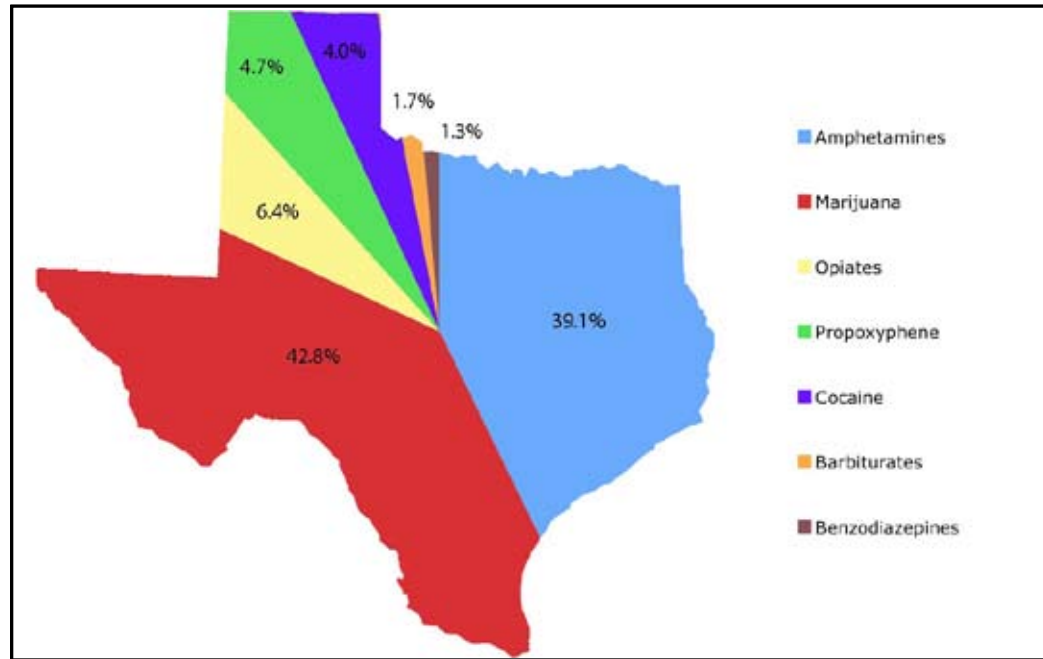
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Drug abuse in schools has been the fear of many parents, students and school administrators for several years. The No Child Left Behind Act allows school districts to receive federal funding to drug test students. This is the first time the public has had the opportunity to view substantial data to examine drug trends in schools.

In 2006, Forward Edge provided drug testing to 91 schools and conducted 23,470 tests. Students involved in extracurricular activities made up the majority of the testing pool. A minor portion of the testing pool consisted of school employees. Professionally trained personnel collected the specimens. The specimens were sent to a laboratory certified by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for analysis.

The laboratory conducted a 10-panel drug test to detect amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, methaqualone, opiates, phenclidine and propoxyphene.

Of the positive drug test results, amphetamines had the highest percentage with 42.8 percent of the total positive tests. Marijuana had the second highest percentage with 39.1 percent of the total positive tests. Opiates had the third highest percentage with 6.4 percent of the total positive tests. Propoxyphene, cocaine, barbiturates and benzodiazepines accounted for the rest of the positive tests with 4.7 percent, 4 percent, 1.7 percent



and 1.3 percent respectively.

There were no positive tests reported for methadone, methaqualone or phenclidine.

The following percentages were reported to a medical review officer prior to being reported to school districts. The data listed above are positive results prior to medical review. If the medical review officer determined there was a medical explanation for the positive test result, it would be overturned and reported as negative.

A prescription medication constitutes a medical explanation in the medical review process. Amphetamines are often prescribed to cure attention deficit disorders. This may be the reason for the high percentage of amphetamine positives.

Nevertheless, marijuana is a schedule one drug as listed by the Drug Enforcement Administration. This means marijuana has no recognized medical purpose. The above data clearly states that marijuana is the most abused illicit drug.

The following results from the 2006 school year provide some of the most considerable data available. To date, there is no comparison to Forward Edge's 2006 school-year data.

Studies conducted by the Of-

fice of Applied Studies detect drug trends in various age groups from the ages of 12 to 65. However, in those studies individuals are interviewed and surveyed about their past drug use over the last month. These studies are based entirely on the individuals telling the truth of their recent drug use.

These annual studies are conducted on a sample population to determine drug trends. Those individuals used in the survey are considered a statistically significant number, thus representing the rest of the population. The studies are usually conducted by interviewing 1,000 individuals and based on their results represents the entire population. The accuracy of these studies can be disputed because a margin of error is almost always applied to a sample population.

The data from Forward Edge's laboratory provides a more accurate measurement of the drug's trends for a school district. The information provided by Forward Edge is scientifically proven and can be reproduced in a controlled laboratory environment. As federal funding becomes more readily available through the No Child Left Behind Act, schools will have the opportunity to expand their programs and pinpoint drug use.