

Effectiveness of Random Student Drug Testing Programs

By:

Joseph R. McKinney, J.D., Ed.D.

Chair and Professor,

Department of Educational Leadership

Ball State University

Adjunct Professor of Education Law

Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis

Legal Background

- Sixty-five Indiana High Schools randomly drug tested students during 1999-2000 school year.
- Indiana Court of Appeals rules random student drug testing (RSDT) programs violate Indiana Constitution (August, 2000).



- Indiana High Schools halt RSDT programs for 2000-01 and 2001-02 school years (ACLU brings lawsuits).
- Indiana Supreme Court reverses appellate court decision, especially in light of Earls decision in 2002.
- Schools resume RSDT programs for 2002-03 school year (2 years later).

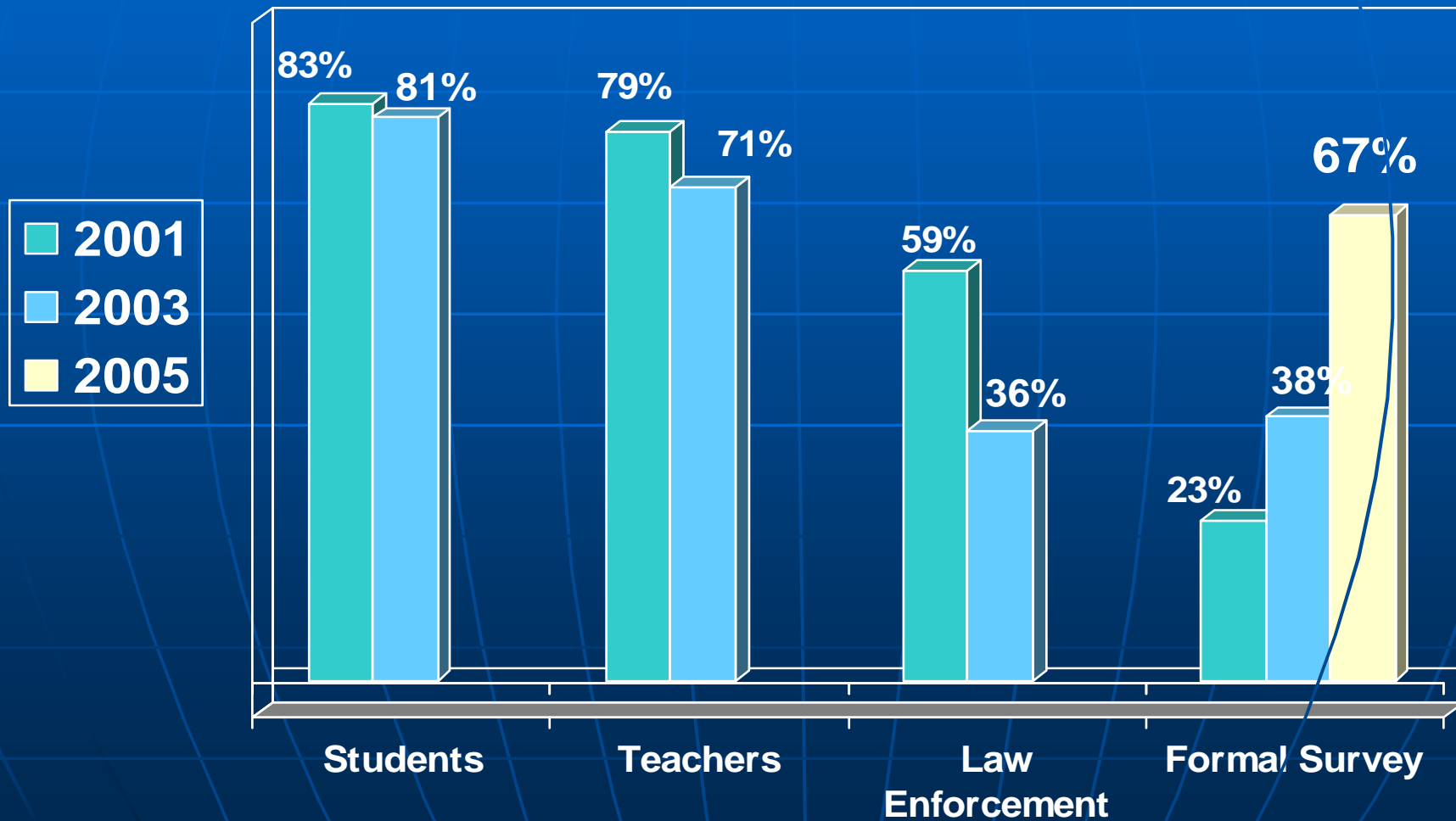
Purpose of Three Part Longitudinal Study

- 1. Learn about RSDT programs in Indiana.
- 2. Determine if RSDT programs are effective.

Methodology

- Pretest-posttest natural experiment design
- Survey research-survey all principals of High Schools with RSDT programs
- State-wide Data collected by IN Department of Education
- Why Principals?
 1. Principals know their schools
 2. Principals have access to formal surveys of students

Where Do Principals Get Their Information



Key Results (2001 Survey)

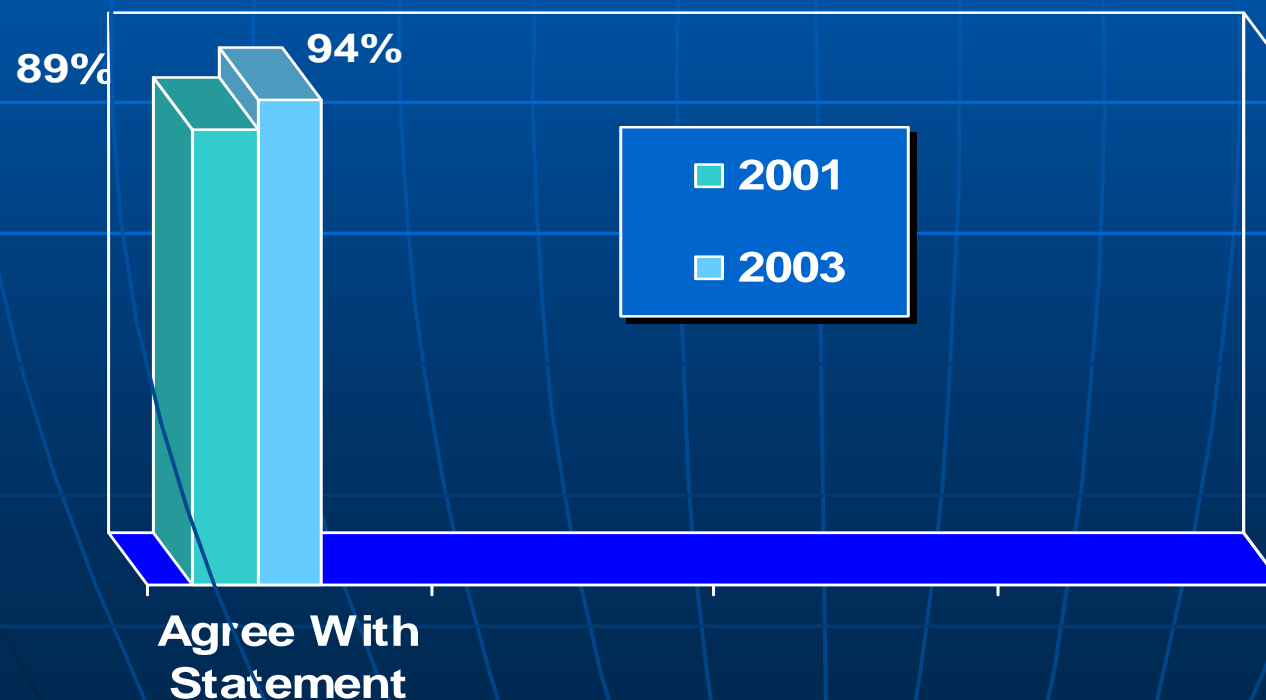
- 85% of the high school principals reported an increase in either drug usage or alcohol usage among their students after the drug testing program was stopped, compared to the 1999-00 school year.
- 80% reported an increase in illicit drug usage during the 2000-01 school year compared to the previous year.

Suspensions and Expulsions

- High Schools reported a statistically significant number of more students suspended or expelled for drug or alcohol related incidents during the 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 school years compared to the 1999-2000 school year (with RSdT).
- ($t=2.9$, df 58, $p<.01$)

Principals' Perspective

- Principals believe the RSDT policy is effective in discovering drug and alcohol use among students



Principals' Perspective 2005

Do you believe that your RSdT program does, in fact, limit the effects of peer pressure on students to use drugs?

91% (N=49) Yes

9% (N=5) No

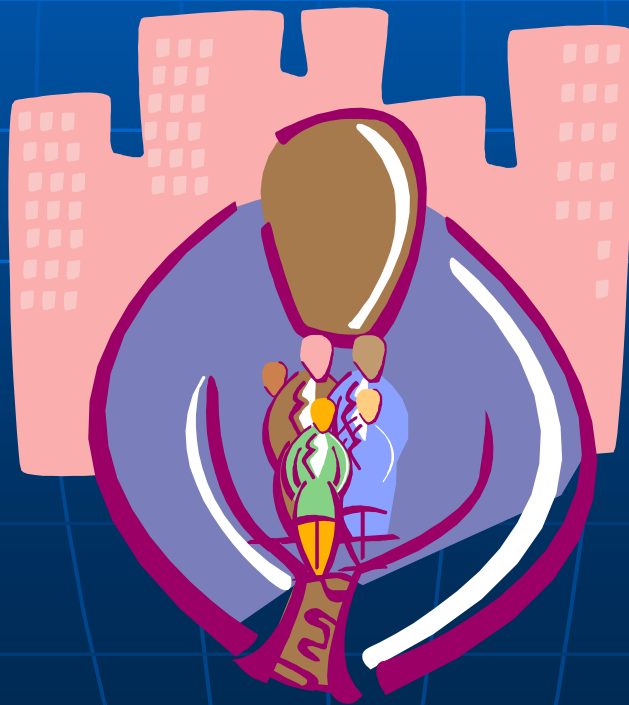
- There was no statistical difference in the increase in drug and alcohol usage based on the size or location of the high school.



- 100% of principals said that no documentation of a positive result was ever made part of a student's record or transcript.



- 97% of the principals said their community supported the drug testing program.



Part II

2003 Follow-up Survey

- 59 of 65 High School principals respond to 2nd survey
- 88% (52) of High Schools reimplemented RSDT programs
- Student enrollment approximately 52,300 students

- 73% of High School Principals reported a decrease in drug usage (compared to period without RSdT) among students subject to policy.

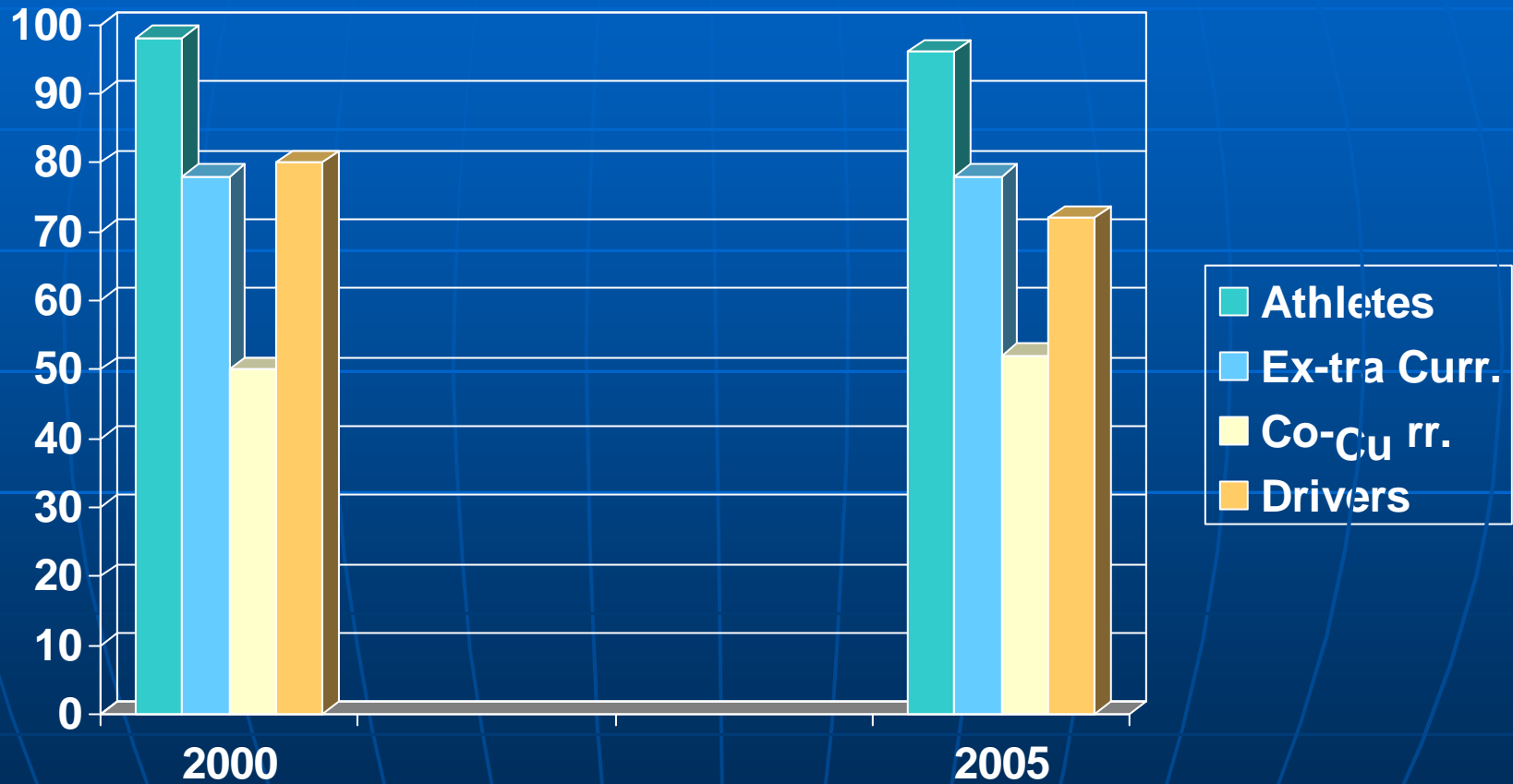


2005 (April) Survey

- 56 of 65 High Schools respond (86%)
- Does your High School continue to implement a RSDT program?

98% (N=54) Yes 2% (N=1) No
Other-Never implemented policy.

What activities covered by SDT Program?



2005 (April) Survey

- Two-thirds (N=36) of principals report that their responses to 2005 survey are based on formal written surveys answered by students regarding drug usage.

2005 Survey

- Formal written surveys of students at school indicate that drug usage (RSDT program since 2002-03-present) has:

58% (N=21) decreased

0% (N=0) increased

42% (N=15) remained the same

2005 Survey

- Evidence of changes in student drug use since RSDT program began (since 2002-03-present)

Positive drug results for students have:

41% (N=22) decreased

3% (N=2) increased

56% (N=30) remained the same

2005 Survey

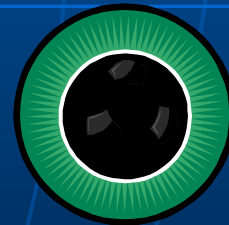
- Since implementing the RSDT program has High School experienced reductions in student participation in:

Interscholastic athletics

0%	No
46% (N=24)	Increases
54% (N=28)	Remained the same

Extra curricular activities:

0%	No
45%	Increases
55%	Remained the same



2005 Survey

- Critics of RSDT claim that testing has a negative impact on the classroom. Based on your experience, do you believe this is true?

100% of principals said "No".

N= 53

Per student drug testing costs (lab fee) at your school are approximately:

\$15	-	13%	(N=7)
\$20	-	50%	(N=27)
\$30	-	28%	(N=15)
\$40	-	5%	(N=3)
\$60	-	4%	(N=2)

- 91% of 54 schools test for \$30 or less.
- 63% of 54 schools test for \$20 or less.

Alcohol, Steroids, Methods

- 57% (N=31) test for alcohol.
- 22% (N=12) test for steroids.
- 87% (N=47)-urinalysis
- 13% (N=7)-oral swab

Who is notified of a positive drug test result?

- Principal
- Athletic Director (athletes)
- Parents
- Coordinator of Extracurricular activity
- Nurse
- Dean
- Counselor

Consequences of a first positive drug test for student:

- Parental notification 100%
- Follow-up testing 63%
- Counseling 60%
- Drug Education 43%
- Loss of playing time 85%
- Loss participation (xtracurr.) 79%

If student tests positive, he or she is referred to:

- Student counseling 44%
- SAP
- Parent/Family Counseling 35%
- Drug education/
Prevention curriculum 30%
- Drug abuse treatment 35%
- Do not refer students 19%
- Other 20%

Study of High Schools with RSDT Programs Test Scores

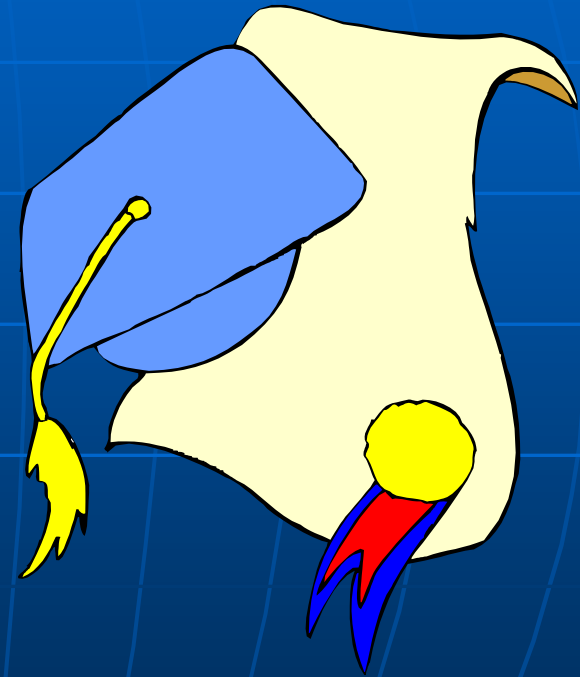
- 80% (42/52) of High Schools with RSDT programs in 2002-03 and 79% (41/52) in 2003-04, scored higher than the State average on the State mandated graduation test (grades 10-12). Statistically significant 0.000 (Z test)

Test Scores

- 80% (42/52) of High Schools with RSDT programs in 2003-04 had more 10th graders passing both Graduation Exam standards than State average.

Graduation Rates

A statistically significant number of High Schools (37/52 - 71%) with RSDT programs in 2002-03 and 2003-04 (39/52-75%) had graduation rates higher than the State average, 0.001 (Z test)



COLUMBUS, INDIANA STUDY

- Two High Schools
- 3,000 total students, grades 9-12
- Community of 35,000 citizens



- High Schools have surveyed students regarding alcohol, tobacco and drug use every 2 years since 1995
- High Schools began SDT program in 1999
- The Indiana Prevention Resource Center (IPRC) coordinates the student self-reporting questionnaire (ATOD)

SDT Programs

SDT program includes:

- Athletics
- Extra-Curricular activities
- Co-Curricular activities
- Parent requested
- Program has Student Assistance Director
- Counseling for positive tests (grants)

Testing Procedures

- Random
- Required Procedures
- Financial Responsibility
- Consent
- Consequences

Marijuana Use

	No Test 1997	SDT 1999	No Test 2001	SDT 2003	(IPRC) M.E. N.A IN 2003
9TH	20.4	13.3	17.5	13.6	13.9
10TH	25.6	22.7	25.5	14.9	18.2
11TH	30.5	19.4	24.4	12.8	18.4
12TH	31.8	25	27	16.7	19.8

Statistically Significant Decreases 2001 (No SDT) Compared to 2003 (SDT)

- Safe Environment
- Comparing 2001 to 2003
 - In past month, how often has student missed school because he/she felt unsafe on school property?
 - Grade 9—Felt much safer
 - Grade 10—Felt much safer
 - Grade 11—Felt much safer
 - Grade 12—Felt much safer

- Peer Approval
- Comparing 2001 to 2003
 - How do you think friends feel (or you) about smoking marijuana occasionally?
 - Grade 9—Fewer approving, much more strongly disapproving
 - Grade 10—Fewer approving, much more strongly disapproving
 - Grade 11—Fewer approving, much more strongly disapproving
 - Grade 12—Fewer approving, much more strongly disapproving

- Comparing 2001 to 2003
- Participation in athletics, clubs, intramurals, art programs extracurricular activities.
 - There was no significant difference in the number of students participating in athletics and extracurricular activities when High School had SDT program compared to no SDT program. In fact, direction was toward increased participation in all grades in 2003

Students Tested

- I believe this procedure is an effective measure in deterring substance abuse.
- 90.5% said yes (163/180)
- Student Comments
 - "It is a smart thing to do."
 - "The staff is friendly."
 - "Awkward but efficient."
 - "Teachers need tested."

The University of Michigan Study (2003)

by R. Yamaguchi, L. Johnson, P. O'Malley

Relationship between student illicit drug use and school drug-testing policies

The Journal of School Health; April 2003

The New York Times, Front page,

May 17, 2003

Headline:

Study Finds No Sign That Testing Deters
Students' Drug Use

Value of Student Drug Tests Questioned by Michigan Researchers

Drug use among students generally does not decline with implementation of drug testing programs at school, according to a national study conducted between 1998 and 2001.

Authors compared drug using rates of students in 8th, 10th and 12th grades of a sample of 722 of nations middle schools and high schools during the years 1998-2001.

Schools divided based on principal's answer to question:



“In the school year, did your school test any students for illicit drug use?”

- About 18% said “yes”; 82% said “no”.
- Drug use rates were compared in 18% of schools that said “yes” with 82% of schools that said “no”.

Study Shortcomings

- Compared drug use in schools that chose testing vs schools that did not choose testing (different type of school?)
- No distinction made between schools with different testing policies (suspicion based vs voluntary vs mandatory random)
- No distinction concerning the extent of testing implementation (one test/hundreds?)
- No evaluation of test quality
- No distinction of types of students subject to testing (athletes, students on school probation, volunteers?)
- No baseline reported

Adolescent Use

- By 12th grade, 51% of students have used some type of illicit drug at least once.
- By 12th grade, 23% report having used illicit drugs within the past thirty days

National Institute of Drug Abuse. Monitoring the Future 2004 Data.

<http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/data/data.html>

High School Athletes Past Year Use

<u>Substance</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Alcohol	54%	48%
Binge drinking	39%	29%
Marijuana	27%	18%
Inhalants	16%	13%
Other drugs	16%	12%

(Youth Risk Behavior Survey, CDC; past year use)

SATURN

Full Study: 2 Years

- 11 schools: six control; five testing (prospective, randomized study)
- Number of tests = 50% of athletes
- 15 testing sessions
- Testing during entire school year (5 schools); Enzymatic immunoassay w/ follow up GC/MS; LOD testing
- 2 years of questionnaires (confidential & anonymous) taken at beginning & end of school year 01 and 02 and beginning of year 03

Athletic Participation (Year 1- Year 2)

Does a testing policy reduce sports participation?

- Drug testing schools: 11% increase from year 1 to year 2.
- Control Schools: 8% decrease from year 1 to year 2.

Hunterdon Central High Study

Lisa Brady

Hunterdon Central Regional High School experienced an overall decrease in student drug use over a three school-year period (1997-2000) during which time the only change to its substance abuse programs was the implementation of a random drug-testing program covering student athletes.

Hunterdon Central Regional High School experienced an overall increase in student drug use over a two school-year period (2000-2002) during which time the only change to its substance abuse programs was the suspension of the random drug-testing program covering student athletes.

Summary

1. Intent is not to “catch and punish”;
2. RSDT is effective in reducing temptation;
3. Use of formal written surveys are providing “hard” evidence that RSDT programs are effective as one tool to deter and prevent drug usage among students.
4. Per student drug testing costs are reasonable.
5. RSDT programs do not cause reductions in student participation in sports or extracurricular activities.