

# **Study of High Schools with Student Drug-Testing Programs**

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### Highlights of the study

- < 80% (42/52) of High Schools with SDT programs in 2002-03, scored higher than the State average on the State mandated graduation test (grades 10-12). Statistically significant 0.000 (Z test)
- < A statistically significant number of High Schools (37/52 - 71%) with SDT programs in 2002-03 had graduation rates higher than the State average 0.001 Z test
- < Number of Expulsions and Suspensions due to Drugs, Alcohol and Weapons for SDT High Schools 30% reduction

### Columbus, Indiana Study: Comparison of two high schools & student drug use for years 2001(without SDT program) and 2003 (with SDT program)

Student population: 3,000 students, grades 9-12

Community size: 35,000 citizens

Data source: High Schools have surveyed students regarding alcohol, tobacco and drug use every 2 years since 1995. The Indiana Prevention Resource Center (IPRC) coordinates the student self-reporting questionnaire (ATOD)

Student drug testing (SDT): Implemented 1999

SDT program description: Random testing of athletes, students in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities; parental request

Program components: Written policy; student assistance; counseling for students with positive test results funded by grants; random drug testing.

Drug testing procedures: Parental consent required; non-academic consequences

### Results of comparison study:

#### Category: Marijuana use

- < Marijuana Use: Statistically Significant Decreases in 2003 with a SDT program, over 2001 without a SDT program

- < Comparing 2001 to 2003, students were asked “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
  
- < Comparing 2001 to 2003, students were asked “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, intra-murals, 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
  
- < Comparing 2001 to 2003, students were asked “In past month, how often has student been in a serious argument involving shouting? (Never, 1-2 times, 3-9, 10+)”
  - Grade 9—Significantly down
  - Grade 10—Significantly down
  - Grade 11—Significantly down
  - Grade 12—Significantly down
 In a physical fight, Grades 10 and 12 significantly down

**Category: Other Drug Use**

- < Comparing 2001 to 2003, students were asked “How many times in last month has student used Amphetamines? (Never, 1-5 times, 6-19 times)”
  - Grade 9—Significantly less use
  - Grade 10—Significantly less use
  - Grade 11—Significantly less use
  - Grade 12—Significantly less use
  
- < Comparing 2001 to 2003, Inhalants – 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades significantly less
  
- < Comparing 2001 to 2003, Tranquilizers – 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades significantly less

**Category: Perceived Risk**

- < Comparing 2001 to 2003, students were asked “How much do you think you or others risk harming themselves if they smoke pot occasionally?”
  - Grade 9—No difference
  - Grade 10—Greater risk
  - Grade 11—No difference
  - Grade 12—Greater risk

**Category: Student drug-testing program**

- < Comparing 2001 to 2003, students were asked “I believe this procedure is an effective measure in deterring substance abuse.  
90.5% said yes (163/180)

**Category: Student Comments about a random drug-testing program**

- “It is a smart thing to do.”
- “The staff is friendly.”
- “Awkward but efficient.”
- “Teachers need tested.”