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BABY BOOMERS STILL DOING DRUGS

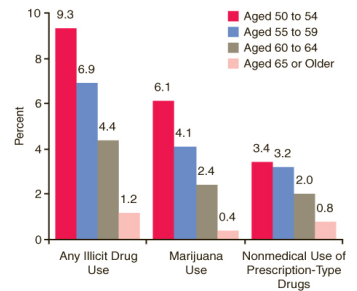
According to a recent government survey by SAMHSA, roughly 8 percent of Americans ages 50 to 59 had used an illicit drug in the past year. Marijuana was the most commonly abused, but close behind was abuse of prescription drugs.

That's about 4.3 million adults over the age of 50 who are abusing drugs – a number that far exceeds that of their parents' generation.

The driving force behind

this trend is people who used drugs when they were younger and never really stopped. The percentage of pot and pill abusers in this age group grew by more than 50 percent between 2002 and 2008, as more baby boomers turned 50. The report also stated that the projected increase in the number of older drug abusers is expected to double the demand for treatment services by 2020. Health officials warn that lifelong drug use means a

greater likelihood of health complications like lung cancer or heart attack, as users get older. Plus, these deeply rooted addictions can be more difficult, and more expensive, to treat.



Past year illicit drug uses among adults aged 50 and older, by age group, from 2006-2008

***Source: Psychemedics Corporation

DID YOU KNOW?

- 70% of the caseloads of state and local prosecutors are drug related crime— American Prosecutors Research Institute
- Substance abuse costs the United States an estimated \$276 billion a year - SAMHSA

INDUSTRY WEEK: RETHINKING DRUG TESTING

Lewis Maltby insists drug testing is a waste of money and doesn't make the workplace any safer. His belief runs contrary to pre-employment policies most large corporations and manufacturers have adopted over the past 20 years.

Drug-testing advocates contend substance-abuse screening is a cost-effective way to reduce on-the-job accidents, improve productivity and cut absenteeism. The average drug screen costs employers \$25 to \$75 for stan-

dard urine tests, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Do the Tests Work?

Maltby says the tests have many flaws, including job candidates' ability to "clean themselves out" beforehand. That's if an employer opts for the more common urine test. More companies are looking to hair tests as a cheat-proof option, says Barry Sample, Director of Science and Technology for the

Employer Solutions division at drug-screening provider Quest Diagnostics Incorporated. Hair tests are effective at detecting repetitive use in employees over a longer timeframe, as far back as 90 days.

A study released in November by Quest Diagnostics shows cocaine and methamphetamine positivity rates are nearly 10 times higher in hair tests than they are in urine samples.

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YEAR-LONG INVESTIGATION YIELDS STIFF SENTENCE FOR COCAINE KINGPIN

There is a drawback, though. Hair tests are nearly double the cost of urine screens, Dr. Sample says.

Another potential concern is the legality of certain drug-testing procedures. State laws can vary quite a bit. For instance, most states allow pre-employment drug screens but others don't per-

mit reasonable-suspicion or random post-employment testing unless there's an accident on the job.

Despite the concerns, drug testing doesn't appear to be going away anytime soon. More employers are opting for the tough-to-beat hair tests, and random on-the-job testing is up to about 12% for

the general U.S. workforce from just under 10% nearly five years ago, according to Quest Diagnostics' Dr. Sample. He notes safety-sensitive workers who are subjected to federally mandated random drug tests have a 50% lower positivity rate than the general workforce.

***Source: Quest Diagnostics

A Federal judge last month sentenced Jesus Manuel Fierro-Mendez, 47, of

Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, to 27 years in Federal prison for conspiracy to distribute

cocaine. His arrest and prosecution were the result of a year-long investigation

conducted by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Between late 2006 and August 2007, the organization led by Fierro-Mendez

transported approximately 110 pounds of cocaine per week from Ciudad Juarez

to El Paso, TX, and from there to Indianapolis, IN, and other U.S. cities.

***Source www.ONDCP.com

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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: CASSANDRA PATTERSON



Cassandra (Cassie) Patterson has been with WPCI for three years. She is a graduate of Chadron State College, with a degree in Business and Marketing. Cassie is responsible for setting up new clients, coordinating laboratory set-ups and providing customer support in whatever area necessary. She is also a certified Breath Alcohol and Urine Collector for the WPCI facility.

In her spare time Cassie enjoys spending time with her husband and daughter, scrapbooking and traveling.

If you have any questions or concerns about your account feel free to contact her at 308-632-7411 or cwiegel@wpcidrugfree.com.



Happy Spring



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