

Illegal Drug Use Highest In A Decade

The rate of illegal drug use rose last year to the highest level in nearly a decade, fueled by a sharp increase in marijuana use and a surge in ecstasy and methamphetamine abuse, the government reported.

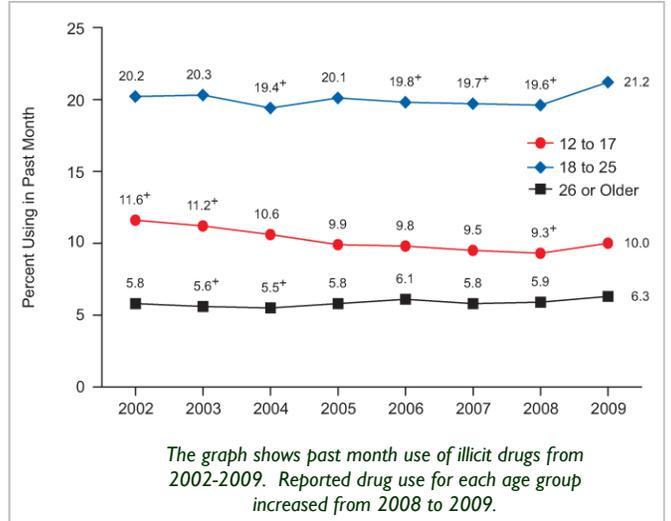
Gil Kerlikowske, the director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, called the 9 percent increase in drug use disappointing but said he was not surprised given "eroding attitudes" about the perception of harm from illegal drugs and the growing number of states approving medicinal marijuana.

The annual report from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration found marijuana use rose by 8 percent and remained the most commonly used drug.

About 21.8 million Americans, or 8.7 percent of the population age 12 and older, reported using illegal drugs in 2009. That's the highest level since the survey began in 2002. The previous high was just over 20 million in 2006. The survey is considered the most comprehensive annual snapshot of drug use in the United States.

Other results show a **37 percent increase in ecstasy use** and a **60 percent jump in the number of methamphetamine users.**

Article: <http://www.capitolhillblue.com/node/33196>



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Statistics

*Admissions for substance abuse treatment among those aged 50 and older more than doubled between 1992 and 2008.

- www.samhsa.gov

* Prescription drug overdoses replaced car accidents as the leading cause of injury-related deaths in 2008 in Washington.

- www.doh.wa.gov

Notes from Ray Kubacki



Raymond Kubacki, Chairman & CEO,
Psychemedics Corporation

Dear Valued Clients and Friends,

Let me start out by wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!

As the new year begins, analysts are predicting that hiring will pick up in 2011. With drug use at its highest level in nearly a decade, companies need to be all the more vigilant with their drug testing program.

While an effective pre-employment program to detect and detour drug users is critical, now is also the time to consider implementing a random testing program for existing workers as well. Random testing current employees will help avoid the unfortunate situations (that you will read about on page 3) that Chrysler and the City of Niagara Falls experienced recently.

We look forward to working with you this year and continuing to ensure that you have the most effective program possible. Best wishes for a successful and prosperous 2011.

Best Personal Regards,
Ray

Drugged Driving Is On the Rise

According to a National Highway Transportation Safety Administration report, drugged driving is on the rise. The report, released in November, was the first ever study of drug involvement among deceased drivers in fatal crashes.

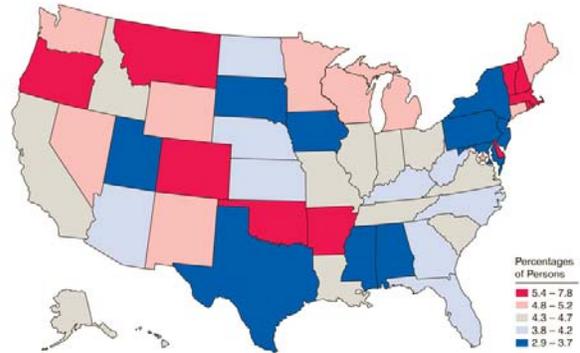
The rise of drug use in traffic fatalities has been fairly steady, the report showed: It was 13 percent in 2005, 15 percent in 2006, 16 percent in 2007, and 18 percent in 2008.

The types of drugs tested for included narcotics, hallucinogens, cannabinoids,

PCPs and inhalants, along with legally prescribed drugs and over-the-counter medicines.

Upon the release of the reports findings, NHTSA Administrator David Strickland said, "Today's report provides a warning signal that too many Americans are driving after having taken drugs, not realizing the potential for putting themselves and others on the highway at risk."

View full NHTSA report:
<http://www.ibhinc.org/pdfs/DrugInvolvementofFatallyInjuredDriversNov2010.pdf>



Source: 2006 to 2009 SAMHSA National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUHS)

The table above (released by SAMHSA) shows percentages of Persons Aged 16 or Older Driving under the Influence of Illicit Drugs in the Past Year, by State: 2006 to 2009. The rates of drugged driving were among the highest in Rhode Island and Vermont and among the lowest in Iowa and New Jersey.

ASTOUNDING FACTS

Ever wonder why Meth is notorious for being one of the most toxic and dangerous drugs available? Some of the ingredients used to make Meth include:
Brake Fluid,
Lighter Fluid,
Hydrochloric Acid,
Liquid Drano,
Chemical Fertilizer
and Iodine.

No wonder there are so many fires started during the process of making Meth!

DEA Moves to Emergency Control Synthetic Marijuana



“NOV 24 -- WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is using its emergency scheduling authority to temporarily control five chemicals used to make “fake pot” products. Except as authorized by law, this action will make possessing and selling these chemicals or the products that contain them illegal in the U.S. for at least one year while the DEA and the United States Department of Health and Human Services

(DHHS) further study whether these chemicals and products should be permanently controlled

Over the past year, smokable herbal blends marketed as being “legal” have become increasingly popular. These products consist of plant material that has been coated with research chemicals that mimic THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, and are sold at a variety of retail outlets, in head shops and over the Internet. These chemicals, however, have not been approved by the FDA for human consumption and there is no oversight of the manufacturing process. Brands such as “Spice,” “K2,” “Blaze,” and “Red X Dawn” are labeled as incense to mask their intended purpose.”

Link to Announcement: <http://www.justice.gov/dea/pubs/pressrel/pr112410.html>

Hopefully this measure by the DEA will lessen the popularity of these products. At this time, there are no FDA cleared assays to screen for synthetic marijuana products, or established cut off levels. The ban mentioned above includes five chemicals used to make synthetic marijuana, however there are over 400 more chemicals that can be substituted in, making an effective drug test for these products very difficult.

New FedEx Rate for 2011

Psychemedics has negotiated a new FedEx rate for our customers. The new, reduced charge to overnight a FedEx letter sized envelope from anywhere in the United States (using a billable stamp provided by Psychemedics) is now \$8.50. This is a flat rate, and there will be no additional fuel surcharge.

As always, Psychemedics welcomes multiple samples in a single envelope. Approximately 25 hair samples can fit in one letter sized FedEx envelope, if necessary.

ASIS Security Conference



Psychemedics recently exhibited at the ASIS Conference in Dallas, Texas. ASIS is the largest conference for the security industry.

DRUGS IN THE NEWS

13 Chrysler Workers Fired For Alcohol/Drug Use During Lunch

Thirteen plant workers at the Chrysler Jefferson North Assembly plant in Detroit have lost their jobs after a video was aired on the Detroit Fox affiliate.

An exclusive investigation by MyFoxDetroit.com showed workers at the plant drinking beer and smoking joints while on a half-hour lunch break just two months after President Obama praised the plant in a speech.

The TV station's investigation -- conducted over several weeks and based on tips from workers at the plant -- had outraged the auto giant's top executives, who called the behavior "totally unacceptable."

www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,601545,00.html

Vicodin - Americas Most Popular Drug

A narcotic painkiller tops Forbes' list of the most prescribed medicines. The drug is Vicodin, a 40-year old addictive medicine that combines the narcotic Hydrocodone with acetaminophen, the active ingredient in Tylenol.

It is particularly dangerous because when patients develop a tolerance for the narcotic they start taking too much.

This can lead to liver failure from overdoses of the acetaminophen component of the combo. Most of the 400 deaths due to acetaminophen poisoning each year result from misuse of Vicodin or similar drugs.

<http://www.forbes.com/2010/05/11/narcotic-painkiller-vicodin-business-healthcare-popular-drugs.html>

Employee Sold Drugs Out of City Truck

A former Niagara Falls city worker is headed to prison for selling drugs out of his city truck.

A judge sentenced Rodney Ingram to a five year term Monday in Niagara County Court. He worked for the city for 22 years, but was fired after police charged him with trying to sell crack cocaine to an undercover detective last year.

Police say they tracked Ingram's activities for months before luring him with the prospect of a drug deal. The investigators stated that Ingram came in a Niagara Falls Water Board truck and was apprehended with \$2,000 in cash and three rocks of crack cocaine.

<http://www.wivb.com/dpp/news/crime/Falls-employee-sentenced-for-drug-deals>

Did You Know ??

Psychemedics has a new website! The site offers many enhancements such as a customized Return-On-Investment report, a live feed to the "Drug News You Can Use" blog, an archive of client newsletters, and a Drug Panel section that includes educational data about the various drugs tested for. The website also features a section designed specifically for Psychemedics clients that includes Client Services contact information, as well as direct links to helpful sites such as the collections training site and drug test results.

*Superior Detection
of Drug Abuse*

**PSYCHEMEDICS
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About Psychemedics

Psychemedics was established in 1987 to provide testing for drugs of abuse using hair analysis, and has been successfully operating for over 20 years. Thousands of corporations currently rely on Psychemedics' patented hair analysis technology for their pre-employment and employee drug screening. Psychemedics is headquartered in Boston and has offices in Dallas, Chicago, Los Angeles and Las Vegas. Our Laboratory is located in Culver City, CA. Psychemedics is a publicly-held corporation listed on NASDAQ under the ticker symbol PMD.