

THE STUDENT DRUG-TESTING COALITION
A PROJECT OF THE
DRUG-FREE PROJECTS COALITION, INC.

PROGRAMS AND STRATEGIES TO PREVENT AND REDUCE DRUG USE



Hackettstown High School, NEW JERSEY October 2006

After two years of random drug testing, drug use at the school is down and more students are saying NO to drugs.

In September of 2004, Hackettstown High School began random drug testing student athletes and students involved in extracurricular activities as well as those who park their cars at school. These testing-eligibility categories cover about 70 % of the student population at the high school and the school's goal was to reduce drug use by at least 5%.

Prior to starting the random-testing program, students were surveyed in the Spring of 2004 about their drug use. Another survey was conducted this past Spring (2006) as a means to compare levels of drug use at the high school prior to implementation of the random testing program.

The Hackettstown program began testing at a random-selection rate of 10% its first year, graduating to 20% of students selected the second year and tests at a 25% random rate for the current year. Due to its success, the program has been expanded to include a voluntary program for students in the 7th and 8th grades which began this Autumn.

The program did not initially include random testing for alcohol, but the school board has now approved the inclusion of alcohol testing which will most likely be conducted at school dances. This Spring's survey indicated that while alcohol use before and after school events has decreased over the past two years for the 11th and 12th grade students, levels of use remain unchanged for 9th and 10th grade students.

According to data comparisons of drug use prior to and following implementation of random drug testing:

- Drug use by students in the 11th and 12th grades (who have been tested for two years), is down significantly
- Marijuana use has dropped from 42% to 29% for 11th graders.
- Marijuana use has dropped from 45% to 29% for 12th graders.
- The number of students who have ever tried drugs is down.
- Of the 245 tests conducted, only 1 was positive.

- Use of hallucinogens has remained constant.
- Heroin use is down, but use of painkillers is rising.

Compiled from data provided in an article for The Express-Times (New Jersey), as reported by Lynn Olanoff, October 23, 2006.