

# Drug and Alcohol Fact Sheet

Quarterly – Issue 2, July 15, 1998

Prepared By: Departmental Drug Office

## Inside DOT ..... Statistics

The Department of Transportation's Federal Employee Drug and Alcohol Testing Program Statistics for Fiscal Year 1998, October 1, 1997 – June 30, 1998:

	<u>TOTAL TESTED</u>	<u># OF POSITIVES</u>
Random Drug	6,914	14
Follow-Up	575	5
Reasonable Suspicion	3	0
Post Accident	61	2
Pre-employment	65	0
FAA Pre-employment	895	0
Voluntary	0	0
Random Alcohol	4711	3
CDL Alcohol	12	0

The Department of Transportation's Fiscal Year 1998 drug positive rate of .2% is well below the latest published government positive rate of .5%.

## “Did You Know?” Korner

- ◆ Street names for marijuana include: pot, dope, grass, weed, ganja, doobie, reefer, Mary Jane, sinsemilla.
- ◆ Marijuana is derived from the hemp plant Cannabis Sativa, e.g. THC is the psychoactive ingredient of marijuana.
- ◆ The marijuana plant generally has an odd number of leaflets per stem. Prepared marijuana is dried, greenish-brown, chopped, and resembles ground oregano.
- ◆ Other forms of marijuana include: Hashish, the dark-brown resin from the top of the hemp plant and often is compressed into a variety of forms such as “cakes” or pills and has significantly higher levels of THC.

## Substance Awareness Facts--Marijuana

Marijuana remains the most commonly used illicit drug in the United States. According to preliminary data from the 1996 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, about 68.5 million Americans (32%) had tried marijuana at least once in their lifetimes, and 18 million (8.6%) had used marijuana within the past year. From 1979 to 1992 there was a downward trend in marijuana use among youth, but the trend reversed in 1993, and use of the drug continued to increase in 1994, 1995, & 1996.

*Some short-term effects of using Marijuana are:*

- ◆ sleepiness;
- ◆ difficulty keeping track of time, impaired or reduced short-term memory;
- ◆ reduced ability to perform tasks requiring concentration and coordination, such as driving ;
- ◆ increased heart rate;
- ◆ bloodshot eyes, dry mouth and throat;
- ◆ decreased social inhibitions; and
- ◆ paranoia, hallucinations

*Some long-term effects of using Marijuana are:*

- ◆ enhanced cancer risk;
- ◆ psychological dependence requiring more of the drug to get the same effect; and
- ◆ increased risk of infertility.

## Looking For Help – Call:

Alcohol & Drug Referral Hot Line: 1-800-252-6465  
National Cocaine Hot Line: 1-800-262-2463  
Narcotics Anonymous: 1-800-896-8896  
Parent Resource – PRIDE: 1-800-853-7867  
DOT Employee Assistance Program: 1-800-222-0364  
FAA Employee Assistance Program: 1-800-234-1EAP

“A Life of Substance Abuse is Life Without Substance”