

## **Educational Environments Research Program**

Summary: Presumptive Drug Detection Technology (PDDT) benefits:  
Drug prevention efforts within educational environments.

This survey reveals surprising trends that will guide you to explore key strategies for your organization in the course of using the DTect products to increase and create sales with existing and new educational clients.

For nearly four years, the National Institute of Justice funded the following research program to evaluate how schools could use Presumptive Drug Detection Technology (PDDT) to help with their drug prevention and deterrence activities. 150 schools in 51 school districts covering 25 states participated in this program.

The primary research focus is on non-intrusive environmental applications of this technology rather than student testing, although schools have complete discretion as to how they will use this technology. What is being assessed is how the information and options provided by this technology can benefit school administrators, counselors, and security/resource officers in their respective responsibilities related to drug prevention, as well as programs for those that have abused drugs. The essential element of this evaluation is how this technology can be made a part of and support school drug prevention policies, programs, and processes.

Until now Schools have had limited tools to combat illegal drug use by students. Other than drug education, the occasional survey to document attitudes and use, periodic searches using drug-sniffing dogs, and the use of urine tests for students suspected of drug use, schools have not had a tool by which to know and monitor what is happening within their schools or how serious the problem may be. PDDT technology provides an additional tool that schools are finding to be very helpful in many ways as based on this research.

During this research project; 210 positive test results for drugs or drug residues were recorded in the schools. Positive results have come from a variety of school

surfaces and circumstances. Most have been for marijuana. But heroin and methamphetamine were seen to be a serious problem in several schools, and cocaine continues to be found although not as frequently as other drugs.

There is no single yardstick to measure the success of this technology for helping school officials to prevent or deter drug use. Each school was given complete flexibility as to how they would use the technology. The most common use is 'informational'; that is, schools want to know what is happening within their schools throughout the year, and in comparison to other years. This technology provides an informational tool that schools have not had before. With PDDT, schools now have that tool they can use anytime without being intrusive in gathering information.

While the results have been very significant in terms of how school officials have been able to effectively use this technology. Many officials believe that PDDT has made a difference by the fact that drug use in their schools has declined as students have come to believe that they will be caught with this technology if they bring and/or use drugs in schools. To these officials, the use of PDDT opens new possibilities for those officials to prevent and combat drugs in schools.

#### Both Aerosol and Pen Test

PDDT products are designed to: (1) determine if suspected substances that have been discovered or confiscated are illicit drugs, and; (2) to detect the presence and types of trace amounts of drug residues on surfaces. PDDT products can detect microgram amounts of trace drug residues on virtually any type of surface left by individuals that have had direct contact with illicit substances. PDDT products are non-toxic, non-carcinogenic, non-corrosive, and environmentally safe.

Most common drugs can be detected: marijuana, cocaine, heroin, amphetamines, and methamphetamines (including ecstasy), as well as other drugs like ketamine. The detection process is very simple: swipe a surface and spray or drop the liquid (either immediately or later when it is more convenient). If there is a detectable amount of drug residue on the surface, the swipe will turn a specific color immediately.

## PDDT APPLICATION CATEGORIES

Within Educational Environments (One or more of these applications were explored by the research schools)

### CATEGORY OBJECTIVE ACTIVITIES:

#### Information General Knowledge

- Periodic random (knowledge about drug types; environmental surface testing locations and frequency of throughout school year findings; and changes over time)

#### Data Support

- Used to evaluate drugs identified (May involve building and prevention programs/efforts maintaining database)
- Used to support budget requests and allocations
- Used to support grant applications for funds

#### Drug Education

- Use findings for instruction about drugs in classrooms
- Use findings (or information about technology) in drug prevention assemblies
- Use to post information around school or in student publications related to drug prevention

#### Investigative Monitoring

- Monitoring of specific locations or surfaces based on past or present suspected or questionable activities or behavior that may be drug related

#### Testing Discovered Substance

- Testing of suspicious or unknown substances discovered or confiscated on campus or at functions

#### Intervention, Suspicion-Based Testing;

- Direct testing of possessions or individuals based on suspicious nature or behavior

## Compliance Monitoring

- Testing associated with (permission to test given by students in extracurricular activities, parent/student as condition of drug treatment, court program or alternative/recovery education programs, or in probationary status from drug courts
  - Parental Assistance
- School testing of substances Initiated at request of parent; student possessions in the home or brought from home by parents

## POSITIVE PDDT TEST RESULTS

### Drugs Identified:

Marijuana 140, Heroin 32, Cocaine 27, Methamphetamine 9, Amphetamine 2

### Locations Tested Positive:

Bathrooms 67, Furnishings 45, Equipment 8, Building 15, Lockers 3,

Student materials 8, Student possessions 37, Students 3, Automobiles 4,

Drug substance 12, Other 8