These 2004 studies examined the data on:

1) 52 Indiana high schools with student random drug testing-programs (SDT) to compare graduation rates and test scores to rates and scores in those schools without drug-testing programs.
2) Drug and alcohol use at two high schools in Columbus, Indiana during the period (2000–2001) when Indiana student random drug-testing programs were suspended and one-year following reinstatement (2002–03) of the programs.

**Highlights of the study comparing graduation rates and test scores**

- 80% (42) of high schools with SDT programs in 2002-03, scored higher than the state average on the state-mandated graduation test (grades 10–12). Statistically significant 0.000 (Z test)

- A statistically significant number of high schools (37 or 71%) with SDT programs in 2002–03 had graduation rates higher than the state average 0.001 Z test

- Number of expulsions and suspensions due to drugs, alcohol and weapons for SDT high schools showed a 30% reduction in schools with testing programs.

**Columbus, Indiana comparative study**

Comparison of student drug-use survey data from two high schools with SDT programs in the 2000–2001 school year (when SDT program suspended) and the 2002–2003 school year (with SDT program reinstated).

- Student population: 3,000 students, grades 9–12.
- Community size: 35,000 citizens.
- Data source: High schools have surveyed students regarding alcohol, tobacco and drug use every 2 years since 1995. The Indiana Prevention Resource Center (IPRC) coordinates the student self-reporting questionnaire (ATOD).
- Student drug testing: Implemented 1999.
- SDT program description: Random testing of athletes, students in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities; parental request.
- Program components: Written policy; student assistance; counseling for students with positive test results funded by grants; random drug testing.
- Drug testing procedures: Parental consent required; non-academic consequences.

**Results**

Category: Marijuana use

- Statistically significant decreases in marijuana use in 2003 with a SDT program, over 2001 without a SDT program.
Compared to 2001, students felt safer in 2003 when asked “In past month, how often has student missed school because he/she felt unsafe on school property?”
  Grade 9—Felt much safer
  Grade 10—Felt much safer
  Grade 11—Felt much safer
  Grade 12—Felt much safer

Compared to 2001, fewer students approved of marijuana use in 2003 when asked “How do you think friends feel (or you) about smoking marijuana occasionally?”
  Grade 9—Fewer approving, much more strongly disapproving
  Grade 10—Fewer approving, much more strongly disapproving
  Grade 11—Fewer approving, much more strongly disapproving
  Grade 12—Fewer approving, much more strongly disapproving

Levels of participation in athletics, clubs, intra-murals, art programs extracurricular activities showed no significant difference in the number of students participating in athletics and extracurricular activities when the high school had a SDT program compared to no SDT program. Direction was toward increased participation in all grades in 2003.

Compared to 2001, students reported fewer serious arguments and physical fights in 2003 when asked “In past month, how often has student been in a serious argument involving shouting? (Never, 1-2 times, 3-9, 10+)”
  Grade 9—Significantly down
  Grade 10—Significantly down
  Grade 11—Significantly down
  Grade 12—Significantly down
  In a physical fight, Grades 10 and 12 significantly down

**Category: Other Drug Use**

Comparing 2001 to 2003, students were asked “How many times in last month has student used Amphetamines? (Never, 1-5 times, 6-19 times)”
  Grade 9—Significantly less use
  Grade 10—Significantly less use
  Grade 11—Significantly less use
  Grade 12—Significantly less use

Comparing 2001 to 2003, Inhalants – 9th and 10th grades significantly less

Comparing 2001 to 2003, Tranquilizers – 9th and 10th grades significantly less
Category: Perceived Risk

- Comparing 2001 to 2003, students were asked “How much do you think you or others risk harming themselves if they smoke pot occasionally?”
  
  Grade 9—No difference
  Grade 10—Greater risk
  Grade 11—No difference
  Grade 12—Greater risk

Category: Student drug-testing program

- Comparing 2001 to 2003, students were asked “I believe this procedure is an effective measure in deterring substance abuse.”
  90.5% said yes

Category: Student comments about a random drug-testing program

  “It is a smart thing to do.”
  “The staff is friendly.”
  “Awkward but efficient.”
  “Teachers need tested.”