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Drug Testing Government Assistance Recipients

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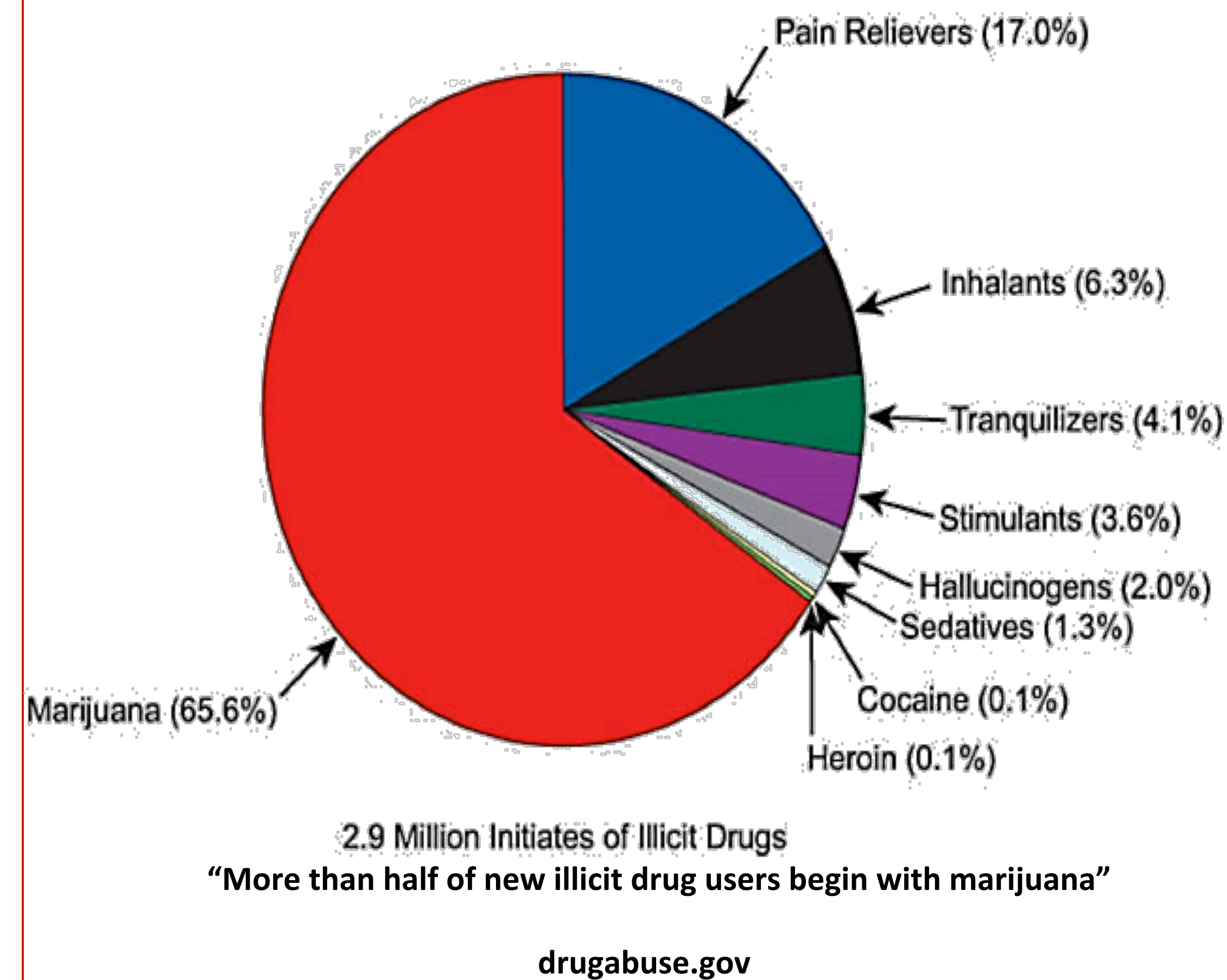
Drug Testing Government Assistance Recipients

Justin Galles

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Abstract

Eligibility for government assistance is based on income levels and is generally given to single parents and lower income families. Government assistance programs like welfare, SNAP (food stamps), and unemployment all help support people who have less income than what is necessary to support themselves and or their families. Programs like welfare and unemployment give checks that can be cashed and used at the discretion of the recipient. Who is to say recipients aren't spending tax payer dollars on illegal drugs? People aren't going to admit to government officials that they use illegal drugs so to be sure that they aren't I believe that to be eligible for any government assistance program, recipients should agree to having to submit to random drug tests.



Conclusions & Discussion

Drug testing all people who receive any kind of government assistance helps assure that money received is being spent on something beneficial for themselves and their families. Mandatory testing for welfare recipients, could be the push that individuals who previously had a drug issue need- by doing this recipients are able to walk away from the drug lifestyle and reenter the workforce more quickly upon recovery. Individuals receiving government assistance need to feel that the money and programs will be there when needed. With that being said, the tax payers who help fund those costs need the reassurance that this is a temporary situation. I believe the only way to assure that tax dollars aren't being spent to support a drug habit would be to drug test all government assistance recipients.

Key Points

- 49.2% of Americans receive some kind of government assistance (Politifact)
- In 2000, 9.6% of people in government assisted families admitted to illicit drug use (American Journal of Public Health)
- In 2013, 24.6 million Americans over 12 years old were current drug users (USA Today)
- 7.5 % of Americans admitted to using marijuana regularly (New York Times)
- Approximately 20% of TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) recipients admitted to using an illicit drug in the past year (Politifact)

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