

Drug Testing: Questions and Answers



What is drug testing?

Drug testing is the evaluation of a urine, blood or other type of biological sample to determine if the subject has been using the drug or drugs in question.

How is drug testing conducted?

Blood testing

- Can determine amount of drugs present at that moment
- Limited window of detection
- Invasive

Hair testing

- Determines longer term drug use (past 90 days)
- Noninvasive
- Cannot detect use within the past 10 days

Saliva testing

- Noninvasive
- Tests for more recent drug use
- Not ideal for testing long term use

Urine testing

- Most common, easily available
- Will indicate presence of drugs after effects have worn off
- May require observed collection

Connecticut Resources

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

www.ct.gov/dmhas

24/7 Access Line

1-800-563-4086

National Resources

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

www.samhsa.gov

1.800.662.HELP (4357)

National Institute on Drug Abuse

www.drugabuse.gov



How long can drugs be detected in the system?

Detection times often vary and can depend on...

- The frequency of drug use
- The individual's fluid intake
- The drug's half-life
- The time since last use
- The individual's metabolism
- The route of administration

Approximate Drug Detection Windows

Alcohol	Up to 12 hours
Amphetamines	Up to 4 days
Barbiturates	Up to 30 days
Benzodiazepines	Up to 30 days
Cocaine	Up to 3 days
Heroin/Opiates	Up to 3 days
Marijuana	Up to 30 days
Phencyclidine (PCP)	Up to 10 days



Wheeler

CONNECTICUT Clearinghouse

a program of the Connecticut Center for Prevention, Wellness and Recovery

800.232.4424 (phone)

860.793.9813 (fax)

www.ctclearinghouse.org

A Library and Resource Center on Alcohol, Tobacco, Other Drugs, Mental Health and Wellness