WILEY

Few crimes in elite sport come with heavier punishments than doping; yet what risk does illegally **contaminated food** pose to **athletes**? A study in *Drug Testing and Analysis*, supported by **FIFA**, **football**'s global governing body, tested players at the FIFA U/17 World Cup in Mexico for traces of Clenbuterol, a growth-promoting substance which is banned in the EU and can lead to positive drug tests if ingested.

Scientists tested samples of meat from team hotels and the urine

of the competing athletes. Clenbuterol was detected in 14 out of

47 meat samples (30%) and in 109 out of 208 urine samples

(52%). The detection rates were so high that only 5 out of the 24 teams

which provided urine samples did not contain clenbuterol.

The extensive evidence of meat contamination ensured

that none of the soccer players were sanctioned.

The results reveal the potential risk to elite athletes and the study

highlights the governmental need to tackle illegal uses of

clenbuterol in stock breeding.