

Quest Diagnostics Incorporated
3 Giralda Farms
Madison, NJ 07940



News From Quest Diagnostics

Quest Diagnostics Contacts:

Barb Short (Media): 973-520-2800

Kathleen Valentine (Investors): 973-520-2900

U.S. Worker Use of Prescription Opiates Climbing, Shows Quest Diagnostics Drug Testing Index™

Post-accident tests find opiates up to four times more than pre-employment tests

MADISON, N.J., September 16th, 2010 – More American workers and job applicants are testing positive for prescription opiates, according to U.S. general workforce data in the 2009 annual Drug Testing Index™ (DTI) released today by Quest Diagnostics Incorporated (NYSE: DGX), the nation’s leading provider of diagnostic testing, information and services. Results from more than 5.5 million urine drug tests reveal an 18 percent jump in opiate positives in the general U.S. workforce in a single year (2008 to 2009), and a more than 40 percent climb from 2005 to 2009.

In addition, 2009 post-accident drug tests found opiates up to four times more often than pre-employment tests (3.7 percent in post-accident as compared to 0.78 percent in pre-employment tests in the case of hydrocodone), suggesting that these drugs may be playing a role in workplace accidents.

“Evidence of increased opiate use is now appearing in the workplace as well as the ER,” said Dr. Barry Sample, director of science and technology for Employer Solutions, Quest Diagnostics. “Because more U.S. workers are performing their duties while taking prescription opiates, employers, particularly those with safety-sensitive workers, should note this trend and take appropriate steps to ensure worker and public safety.”

The new DTI findings are consistent with a June report from the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), part of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The DAWN study reported a 111 percent increase in the estimated number of emergency department visits for nonmedical use of opioid analgesics from 2004-2008 (from 144,600 to 305,900), and a 29 percent jump from 2007-2008. The highest numbers of emergency department visits were recorded for oxycodone, hydrocodone and methadone, some of the same drugs showing increased use by the U.S. workforce in Quest Diagnostics’ DTI data. Possible opiate side effects include drowsiness, nausea, constipation, and depending upon the drug taken, depressed respiration. They are known for their potential for addiction as well for the euphoria they can induce owing to their effect on regions of the brain that mediate what the body perceives as pleasure.

“The HHS report on nonmedical use of opiates—and its consistency with DTI findings—is notable and of concern, but it’s important to remember that prescribed pain medication plays an important role in patient care and improved health,” said Jon R. Cohen, M.D., senior vice president and chief medical officer, Quest Diagnostics.

“Because both prescribed use and misuse of opiates appear to be on the rise, employers will want to address this issue comprehensively as they work to ensure employee health and safety.”

Within the opiate category, semi-synthetic opiates showed higher numbers. Hydrocodone—which, according to a 2010 *Drug Topics* report, has been the most prescribed generic drug for the past three years—registered a 1.3 percent positivity rate in 2009 general U.S. workforce DTI data. Oxycodones showed a 1.0 percent positivity, while hydromorphone reached 0.82 percent. Naturally occurring opiates, codeine and morphine, were found at far lower positivity rates, 0.21 percent and 0.48 percent, respectively.

Cocaine and Methamphetamine Positives Continue Declines; Amphetamine Positives Jump Again

Consistent with prior DTI reports highlighting illegal drug use trends, the 2009 index shows that cocaine use continued to decline sharply in 2009 vs. 2008, down 29.3 percent (0.29 percent vs. 0.41 percent, respectively) in the general U.S. workforce, and 25 percent (0.24 percent vs. 0.32 percent, respectively) in federally mandated safety-sensitive (FMSS) workers. While methamphetamine showed little or no change, amphetamine positives continue to climb (greater than 15%) in both general and FMSS workers.

For the full DTI report’s charts and tables, please visit

http://www.QuestDiagnostics.com/EmployerSolutions/dti/2010_09/dti_index.html.

About the Drug Testing Index™ (DTI)

The Quest Diagnostics Drug Testing Index is published as a public service for government, media and industry and has been considered a benchmark for national trends since its inception in 1988. It examines positivity rates – the proportion of positive results for each drug to all such drug tests performed by Quest Diagnostics – among three major testing populations: federally mandated, safety-sensitive workers; the general workforce; and the combined U.S. workforce. Federally mandated, safety-sensitive workers include pilots, bus and truck drivers, and workers in nuclear power plants, for whom routine drug testing is mandated by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

About Quest Diagnostics Employer Solutions Business

Quest Diagnostics’ Employer Solutions Business offers a comprehensive menu of testing and collection programs to manage employers’ pre-employment and employee drug testing, wellness services, national clinical testing, background checks and OSHA requirements. A national leader in drug testing, Quest Diagnostics performed approximately 7 million drug tests in 2009, and leads the industry in drug-testing program options and tools, including urine, oral fluid and hair testing; customized panels; sport-related testing for performance-enhancing drugs; specialized testing of healthcare professionals, and a drug testing program ROI calculator, available online at www.employersolutions.com/roi. Quest Diagnostics’ Blueprint for Wellness (www.BlueprintforWellness.com), a health risk identification solution and education tool for employers, uses laboratory insights to provide measurable results that help participants manage health risk more effectively, in turn reducing healthcare spending and costs.

About Quest Diagnostics

Quest Diagnostics is the world’s leading provider of diagnostic testing, information and services that patients and doctors need to make better healthcare decisions. The company offers the broadest access to diagnostic testing services through its network of laboratories and patient service centers, and provides interpretive consultation through its extensive medical and scientific staff. Quest Diagnostics is a pioneer in developing innovative new diagnostic tests and advanced healthcare information technology solutions that help improve patient care. Additional company information is available at: www.questdiagnostics.com.

Percent Testing Positive for “Expanded Opiates” – Urine Drug Tests

(For General U.S. Workforce, as a percentage of all tests for “Expanded Opiates”)

(More than 500 thousand tests from January to December 2009)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Codeine	0.22%	0.20%	0.19%	0.20%	0.21%
Morphine	0.45%	0.37%	0.43%	0.43%	0.48%
Hydrocodone	0.88%	0.97%	1.2%	1.1%	1.3%
Hydromorphone	0.47%	0.54%	0.74%	0.73%	0.82%

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
% Difference Codeine	N/A	-9.1%	-5.0%	5.3%	5.0%
% Difference Morphine	N/A	-17.8%	16.2%	0.0%	11.6%
% Difference Hydrocodone	N/A	10.2%	23.7%	-8.3%	18.2%
% Difference Hydromorphone	N/A	14.9%	37.0%	-1.4%	12.3%

Pre-Employment Positivity Rates for “Expanded Opiates” – Urine Drug Tests

(For General U.S. Workforce, as a percentage of all pre-employment tests for “Expanded Opiates”)

(More than 250 thousand pre-employment tests from January to December 2009)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Codeine	0.22%	0.18%	0.16%	0.19%	0.18%
Morphine	0.33%	0.30%	0.29%	0.31%	0.32%
Hydrocodone	0.69%	0.70%	0.79%	0.78%	0.78%
Hydromorphone	0.37%	0.38%	0.48%	0.50%	0.47%

Post-Accident Positivity Rates for “Expanded Opiates” – Urine Drug Tests

(For General U.S. Workforce, as a percentage of all post-accident tests for “Expanded Opiates”)

(Approximately 20 thousand post-accident tests from January to December 2009)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Codeine	0.36%	0.31%	0.30%	0.34%	0.46%
Morphine	1.0%	0.90%	1.0%	1.2%	1.2%
Hydrocodone	2.3%	2.1%	2.9%	3.2%	3.7%
Hydromorphone	1.2%	1.2%	1.8%	2.2%	2.3%

Percent Testing Positive for Oxycodones (Oxycodone and/or Oxymorphone) – Urine Drug Tests

(For General U.S. Workforce, as a percentage of all tests for Oxycodones)

(More than 500 thousand tests from January to December 2009)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Oxycodones	0.56%	0.64%	0.88%	0.83%	1.0%

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
% Difference Oxycodones	N/A	14.3%	37.5%	-5.7%	20.5%

Pre-Employment Positivity Rates for Oxycodones (Oxycodone and/or Oxymorphone) – Urine Drug Tests
(For General U.S. Workforce, as a percentage of all pre-employment tests for Oxycodones)
(More than 250 thousand pre-employment tests from January to December 2009)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Oxycodones	0.41%	0.44%	0.56%	0.56%	0.57%

Post-Accident Positivity Rates for Oxycodones (Oxycodone and/or Oxymorphone) – Urine Drug Tests
(For General U.S. Workforce, as a percentage of all post-accident tests for Oxycodones)
(Approximately 20 thousand post-accident tests from January to December 2009)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Oxycodones	1.2%	1.3%	1.6%	1.7%	2.1%

For the full DTI report's charts and tables, please visit

http://www.QuestDiagnostics.com/EmployerSolutions/dti/2010_09/dti_index.html.

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(tables follow)

**Table 1. Annual Positivity Rates – Urine Drug Tests
(For Combined U.S. Workforce)**

(More than 5.5 million tests from January to December 2009)

Year	Drug Positive Rate
1988	13.6%
1989	12.7%
1990	11.0%
1991	8.8%
1992	8.8%
1993	8.4%
1994	7.5%
1995	6.7%
1996	5.8%
1997	5.0%
1998	4.8%
1999	4.6%
2000	4.7%
2001	4.6%
2002	4.4%
2003	4.5%
2004	4.5%
2005	4.1%
2006	3.8%
2007	3.8%
2008	3.6%
2009	3.6%

Table 2. Positivity Rates By Testing Category – Urine Drug Tests

Testing Category	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Federally Mandated, Safety-Sensitive Workforce	2.3%	2.0%	1.8%	1.6%	1.5%
General U.S. Workforce	4.5%	4.4%	4.4%	4.2%	4.2%
Combined U.S. Workforce	4.1%	3.8%	3.8%	3.6%	3.6%

**Table 3. Positivity Rates By Testing Reason – Urine Drug Tests
(For Federally Mandated, Safety-Sensitive Workforce)**
(More than 1.3 million tests from January to December 2009)

Testing Reason	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Follow-Up	3.1%	3.0%	2.8%	2.2%	2.5%
For Cause	13.4%	12.4%	11.1%	9.9%	11.1%
Periodic	0.76%	0.59%	0.75%	0.71%	0.82%
Post-Accident	3.0%	2.7%	2.6%	2.3%	2.2%
Pre-Employment	2.6%	2.3%	2.0%	1.7%	1.5%
Random	1.8%	1.5%	1.5%	1.4%	1.4%
Returned to Duty	3.0%	3.2%	3.3%	3.1%	3.0%

**Table 4. Positivity Rates By Testing Reason – Urine Drug Tests
(For General U.S. Workforce)**
(More than 4.2 million tests from January to December 2009)

Testing Reason	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Follow-Up	9.6%	7.4%	7.7%	7.6%	7.5%
For Cause	28.3%	18.1%	19.2%	22.0%	26.8%
Periodic	2.4%	1.9%	1.4%	1.4%	1.5%
Post-Accident	5.8%	5.7%	5.8%	5.6%	5.3%
Pre-Employment	3.9%	3.9%	3.9%	3.6%	3.4%
Random	6.6%	5.5%	5.7%	5.3%	5.4%
Returned to Duty	6.0%	5.8%	5.6%	5.3%	4.6%

**Table 5. Positivity Rates By Drug Category – Urine Drug Tests
(For Federally Mandated, Safety-Sensitive Workforce, as a percentage of all such tests)**
(More than 1.3 million tests from January to December 2009)

Drug Category	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Overall	2.3%	2.0%	1.8%	1.6%	1.5%
Amphetamines	0.35%	0.28%	0.25%	0.26%	0.29%
Cocaine	0.60%	0.58%	0.44%	0.32%	0.24%
Marijuana	1.1%	0.94%	0.88%	0.77%	0.69%
Opiates	0.18%	0.17%	0.18%	0.20%	0.21%
PCP	0.04%	0.03%	0.04%	0.04%	0.04%

**Table 6. Positivity Rates By Drug Category – Urine Drug Tests
(For General U.S. Workforce, as a percentage of all such tests)
(More than 4.2 million tests from January to December 2009)**

Drug Category	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Overall	4.5%	4.4%	4.4%	4.2%	4.2%
Amphetamines	0.48%	0.42%	0.44%	0.48%	0.57%
Barbiturates	0.25%	0.23%	0.24%	0.25%	0.26%
Benzodiazepines	0.58%	0.62%	0.67%	0.70%	0.74%
Cocaine	0.70%	0.72%	0.58%	0.41%	0.29%
Marijuana	2.5%	2.4%	2.3%	2.1%	2.0%
Methadone	0.23%	0.22%	0.23%	0.22%	0.23%
Opiates	0.32%	0.32%	0.35%	0.38%	0.45%
Oxycodones	0.56% ¹	0.64% ²	0.88% ³	0.83% ³	1.0% ³
PCP	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%
Propoxyphene	0.57%	0.55%	0.58%	0.56%	0.48%

**Table 7. Positivity Rates By Drug Category – Urine Drug Tests
(For Combined U.S. Workforce, as a percentage of all such tests)
(More than 5.5 million tests from January to December 2009)**

Drug Category	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Overall	4.1%	3.8%	3.8%	3.6%	3.6%
Amphetamines	0.46%	0.39%	0.40%	0.43%	0.50%
Barbiturates	0.25%	0.23%	0.24%	0.25%	0.26%
Benzodiazepines	0.58%	0.62%	0.67%	0.70%	0.74%
Cocaine	0.69%	0.69%	0.55%	0.39%	0.28%
Marijuana	2.3%	2.0%	2.0%	1.8%	1.7%
Methadone	0.23%	0.22%	0.23%	0.22%	0.23%
Opiates	0.29%	0.28%	0.32%	0.34%	0.39%
Oxycodones	0.56% ¹	0.64% ²	0.88% ³	0.83% ³	1.0% ³
PCP	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%
Propoxyphene	0.57%	0.55%	0.58%	0.56%	0.48%

¹More than 200,000 tests

²Approximately 400,000 tests

³More than 500,000 tests

**Table 8. Non-Negative Rates By Specimen Validity Test (SVT)⁴ Category – Urine Drug Tests
(For Federally Mandated, Safety-Sensitive Workforce, as a percentage of all such tests)
(More than 1.3 million tests from January to December 2009)**

SVT Category	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Acid-Base	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.02%	0.03%
Invalid	0.12%	0.12%	0.11%	0.11%	0.09%
Oxidizing Adulterants	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Substitution	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.06%

Table 9. Non-Negative Rates By Specimen Validity Test (SVT)⁴ Category – Urine Drug Tests
(For General U.S. Workforce, as a percentage of all such tests)
(More than 4.2 million tests from January to December 2009)

SVT Category	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Acid-Base	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Invalid	0.16%	0.15%	0.13%	0.12%	0.12%
Oxidizing Adulterants	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Substitution	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%

⁴Specimen validity testing is the evaluation of a specimen to determine if it is consistent with a normal human specimen. Tests for specimen validity include tests to determine whether a specimen is adulterated or substituted.

Table 10. Non-Negative Rates By Drug/SVT Category – Urine Drug Tests
(For Federally Mandated, Safety-Sensitive Workers, as a Percentage of All Non-Negatives)
(More than 22 thousand non-negative test results from January to December 2009)

Drug/SVT Category	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Acid/Base	0.27%	0.15%	0.47%	0.86%	1.7%
Amphetamines	14.8%	12.6%	12.7%	14.4%	17.4%
Cocaine	25.4%	26.3%	22.2%	17.7%	14.8%
Invalid	--	5.7%	5.5%	6.4%	5.5%
Marijuana	47.8%	43.8%	45.2%	44.3%	41.7%
Opiates	7.7%	7.8%	9.2%	11.0%	12.6%
Oxidizing Adulterants	0.06%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%
PCP	1.8%	1.6%	2.1%	2.3%	2.5%
Substituted	2.3%	2.2%	2.7%	3.0%	3.8%

Table 11. Non-Negative Rates By Drug/SVT Category – Urine Drug Tests
(For General U.S. Workforce, as a Percentage of All Non-Negatives)
(More than 190 thousand non-negative test results from January to December 2009)

Drug/SVT Category	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Acid/Base	0.06%	0.04%	0.04%	0.04%	0.02%
Amphetamines	10.1%	8.8%	9.2%	10.7%	12.6%
Barbiturates	2.7%	2.6%	2.8%	3.3%	3.5%
Benzodiazepines	5.4%	6.1%	6.9%	8.2%	9.0%
Cocaine	14.7%	15.0%	12.2%	9.2%	6.4%
Invalid	--	3.2%	2.8%	2.6%	2.7%
Marijuana	53.0%	49.5%	48.8%	46.3%	44.0%
Methadone	2.0%	2.0%	2.2%	2.5%	2.7%
Methaqualone	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Opiates	6.6%	6.6%	7.4%	8.4%	10.0%
Oxidizing Adulterants	0.05%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Oxycodones	--	0.74%	1.5%	1.8%	2.7%
PCP	0.31%	0.31%	0.35%	0.38%	0.34%
Propoxyphene	4.9%	4.9%	5.6%	6.3%	5.6%
Substituted	0.26%	0.27%	0.26%	0.26%	0.40%

Table 12. Non-Negative Rates By Drug/SVT Category – Urine Drug Tests
(For Combined U.S. Workforce, as a Percentage of All Non-Negatives)
(More than 210 thousand non-negative test results from January to December 2009)

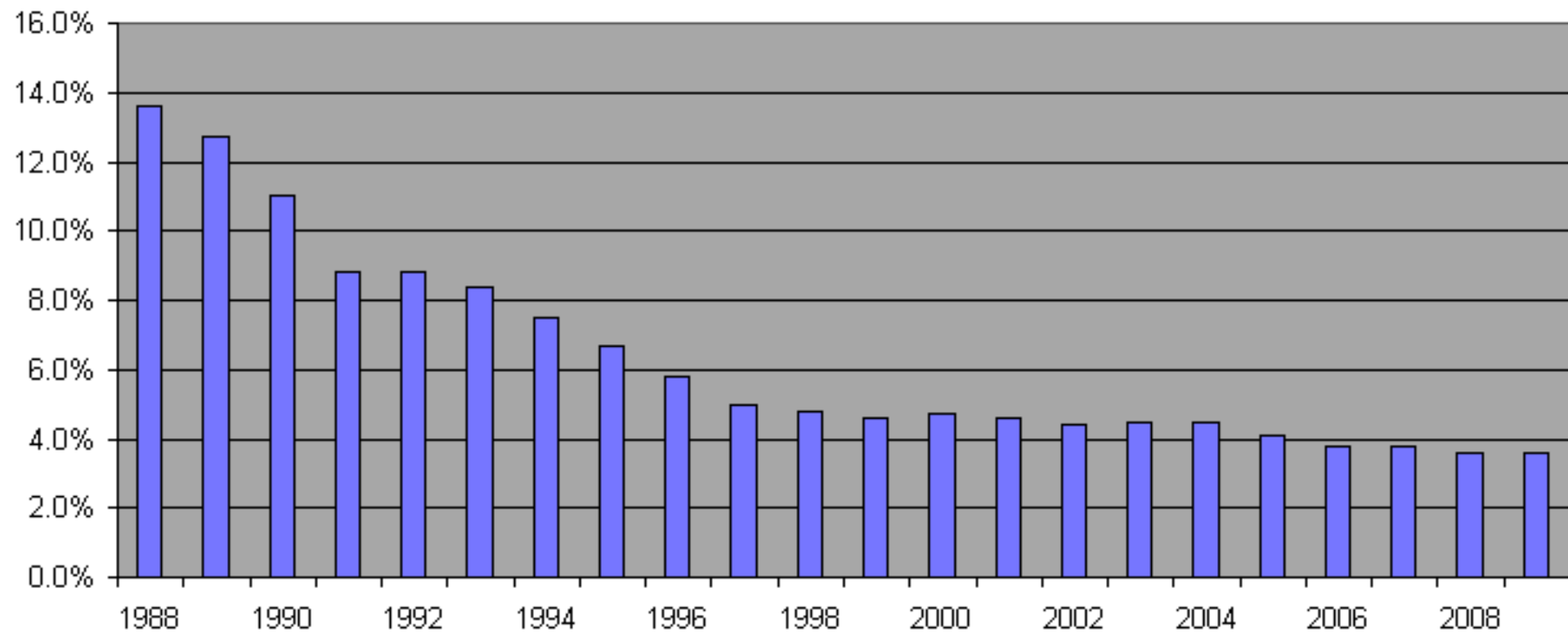
Drug/SVT Category	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Acid/Base	0.08%	0.05%	0.09%	0.12%	0.20%
Amphetamines	10.6%	9.3%	9.6%	11.1%	13.1%
Barbiturates	2.5%	2.3%	2.5%	2.9%	3.2%
Benzodiazepines	4.9%	5.4%	6.1%	7.4%	8.0%
Cocaine	15.7%	16.4%	13.2%	10.0%	7.3%
Invalid	--	3.5%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
Marijuana	52.5%	48.8%	48.4%	46.1%	43.7%
Methadone	1.8%	1.8%	2.0%	2.3%	2.4%
Methaqualone	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Opiates	6.7%	6.7%	7.6%	8.7%	10.3%
Oxidizing Adulterants	0.09%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Oxycodones	--	0.65%	1.4%	1.6%	2.4%
PCP	0.45%	0.46%	0.53%	0.57%	0.56%
Propoxyphene	4.4%	4.3%	5.0%	5.7%	5.0%
Substituted	0.45%	0.49%	0.51%	0.54%	0.76%

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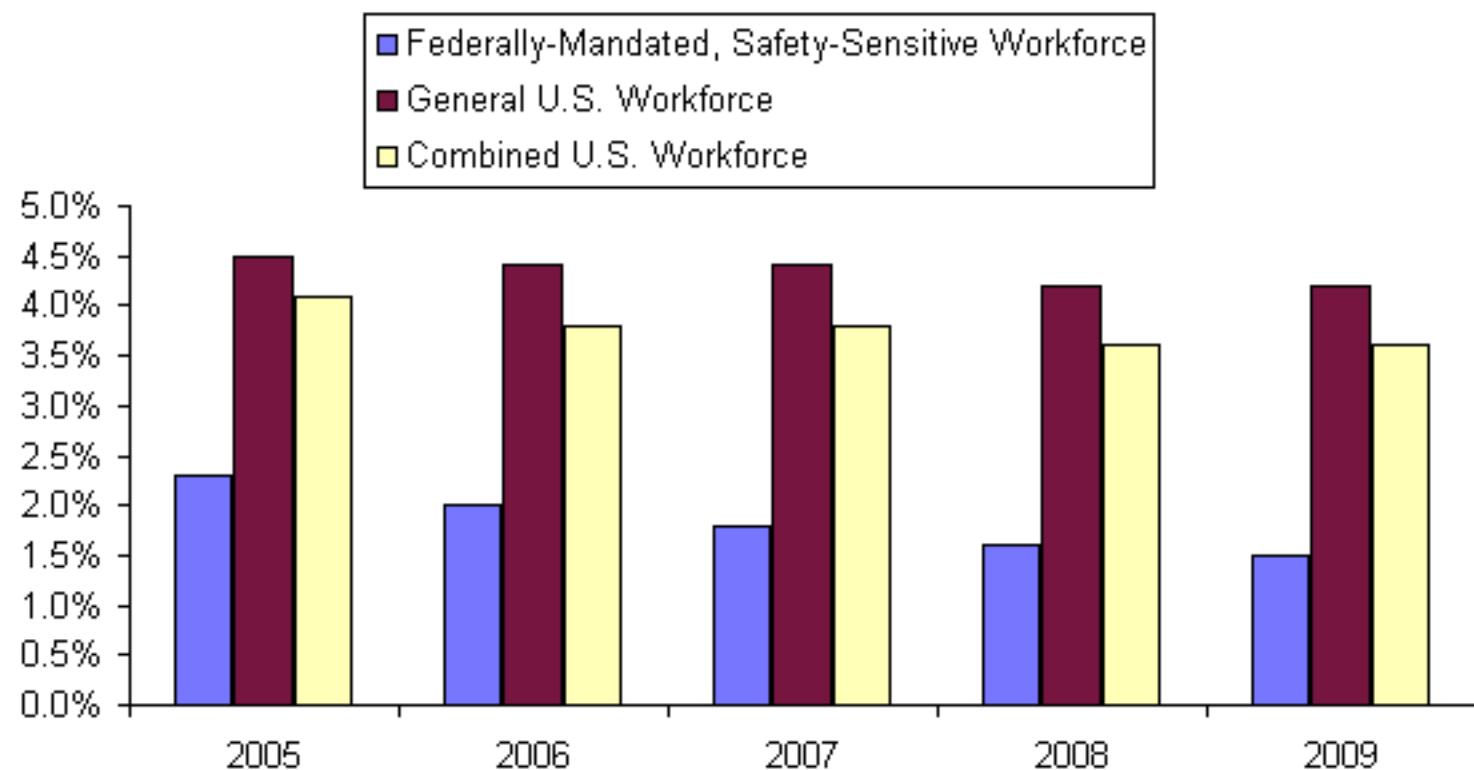
Annual Positivity Rates - Urine Drug Tests

(For Combined U.S. Workforce)

(More than 5.5 million tests from January to December 2009)

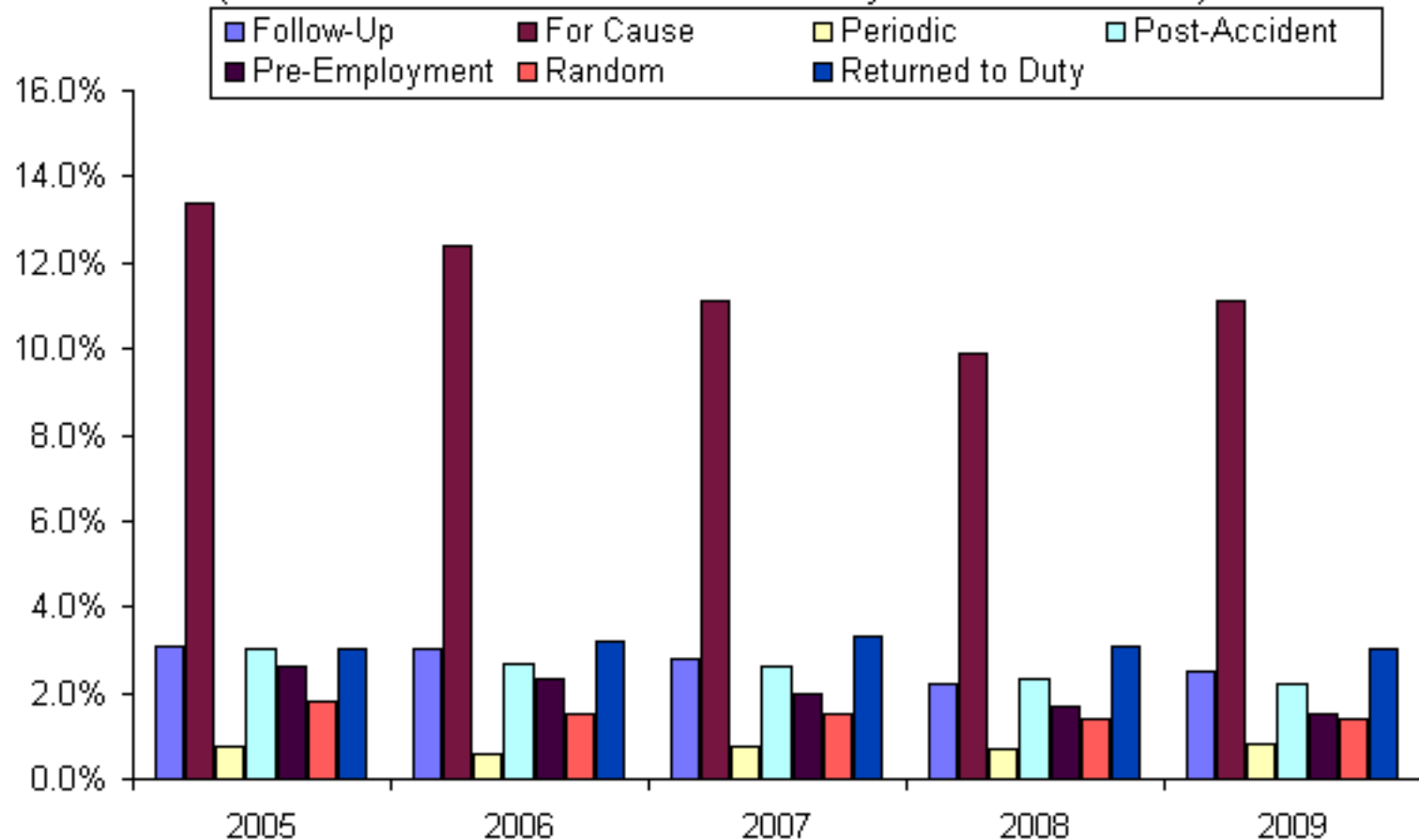


Positivity Rates By Testing Category - Urine Drug Tests



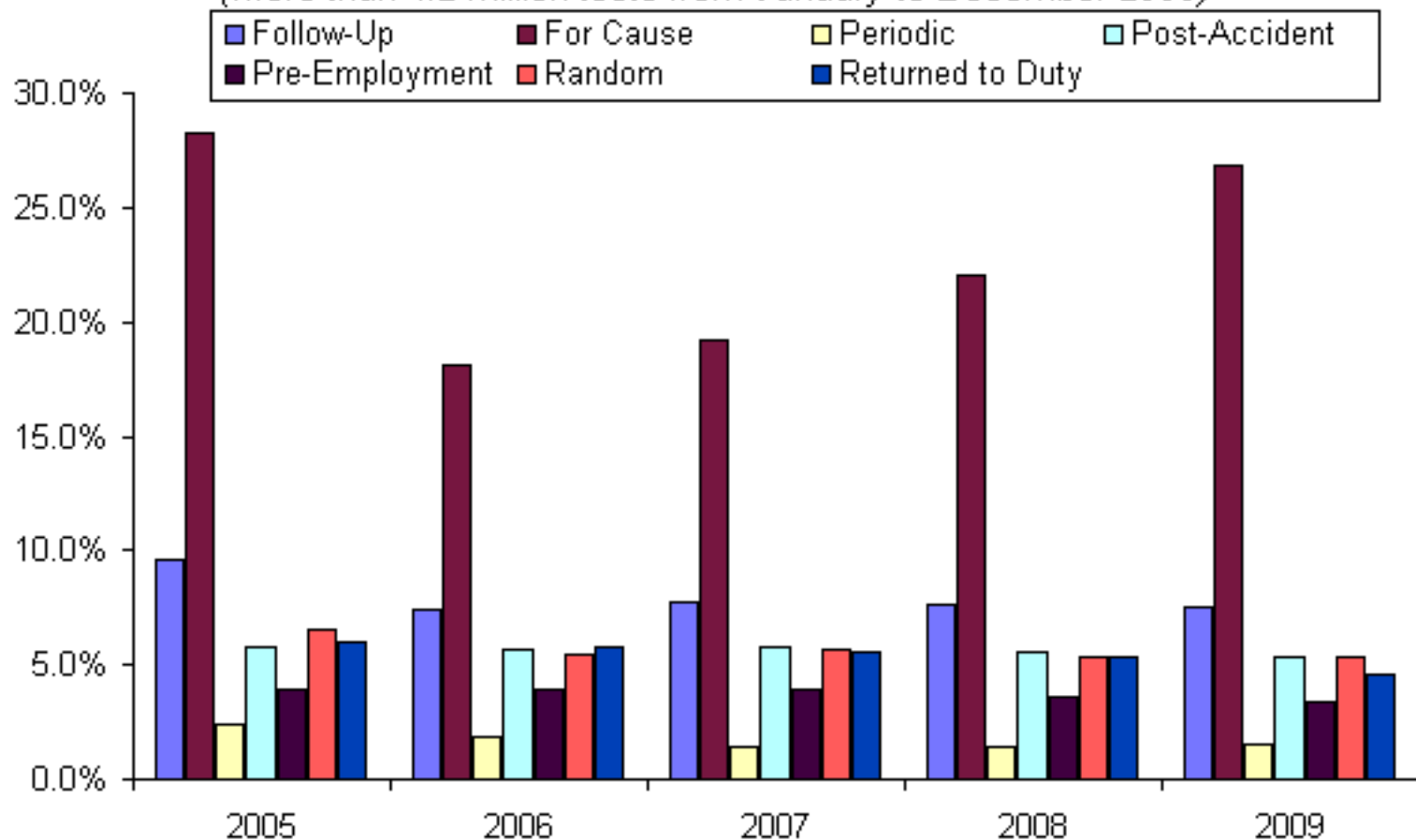
Positivity Rates By Testing Reason - Urine Drug Tests (For Federally Mandated Safety-Sensitive Workforce)

(More than 1.3 million tests from January to December 2009)



Positivity Rates By Testing Reason - Urine Drug Tests (For General U.S. Workforce)

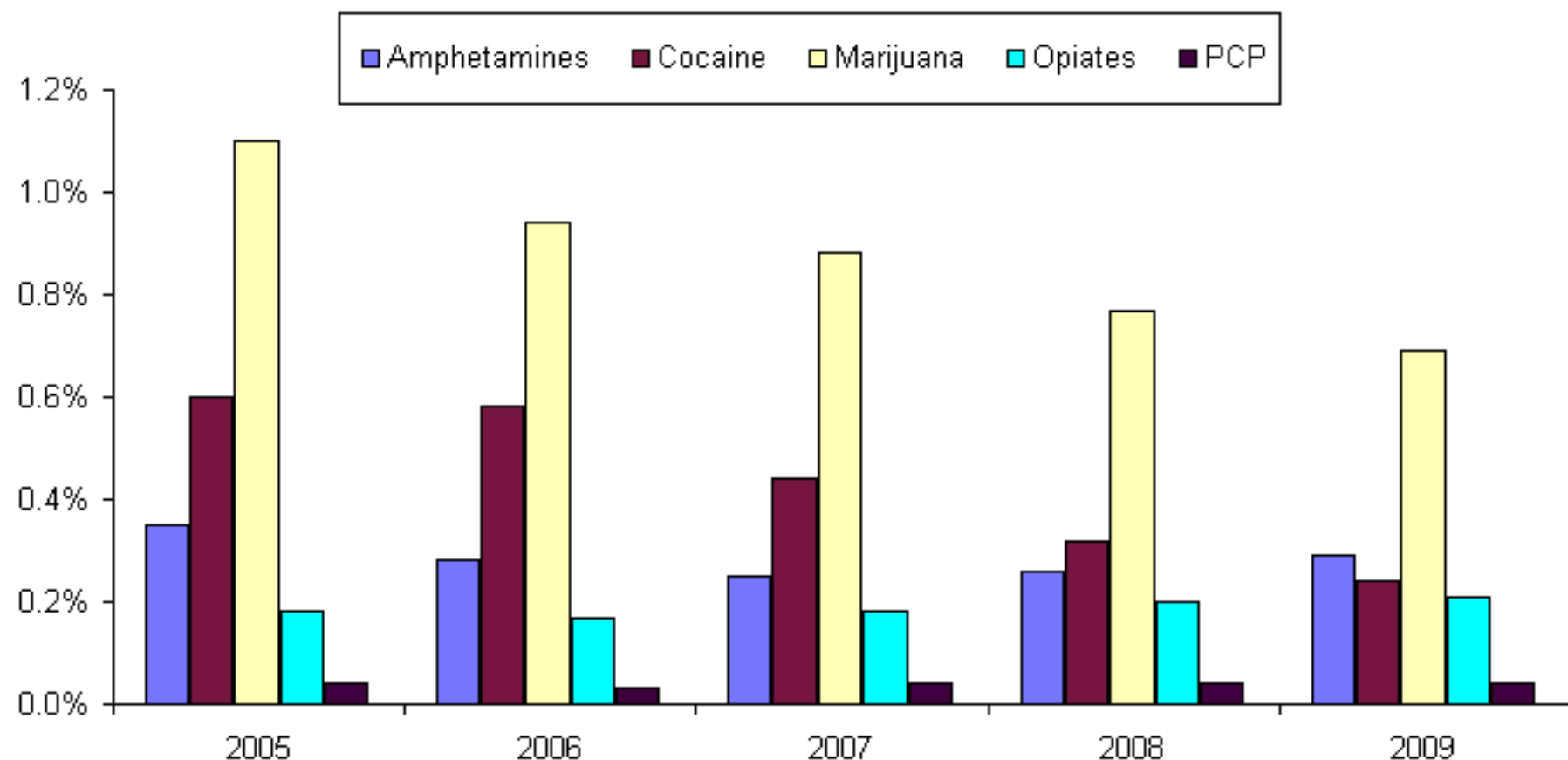
(More than 4.2 million tests from January to December 2009)



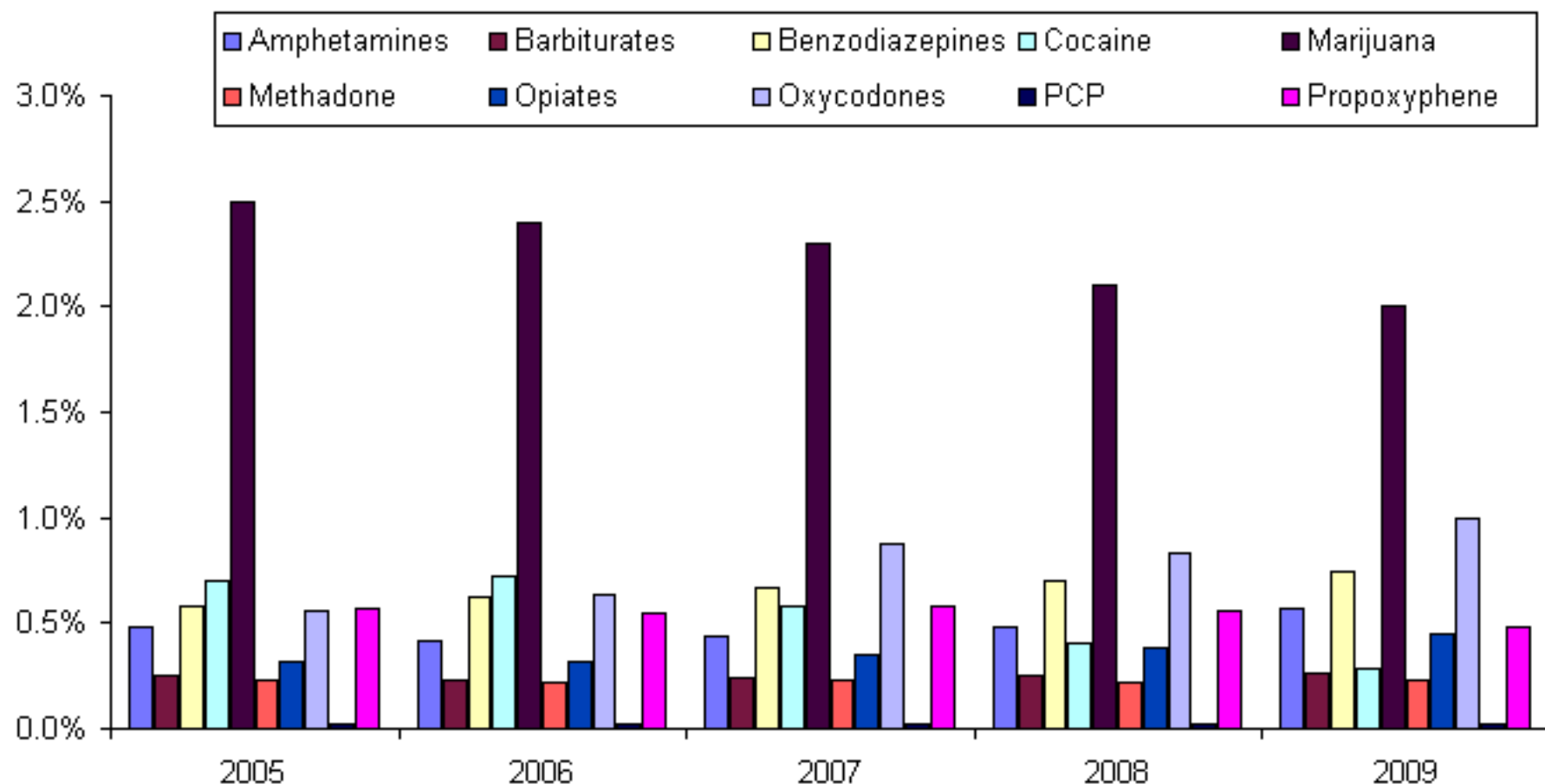
Positivity Rates By Drug Category - Urine Drug Tests

*(For Federally-Mandated, Safety-Sensitive Workforce,
as a percentage of all such tests)*

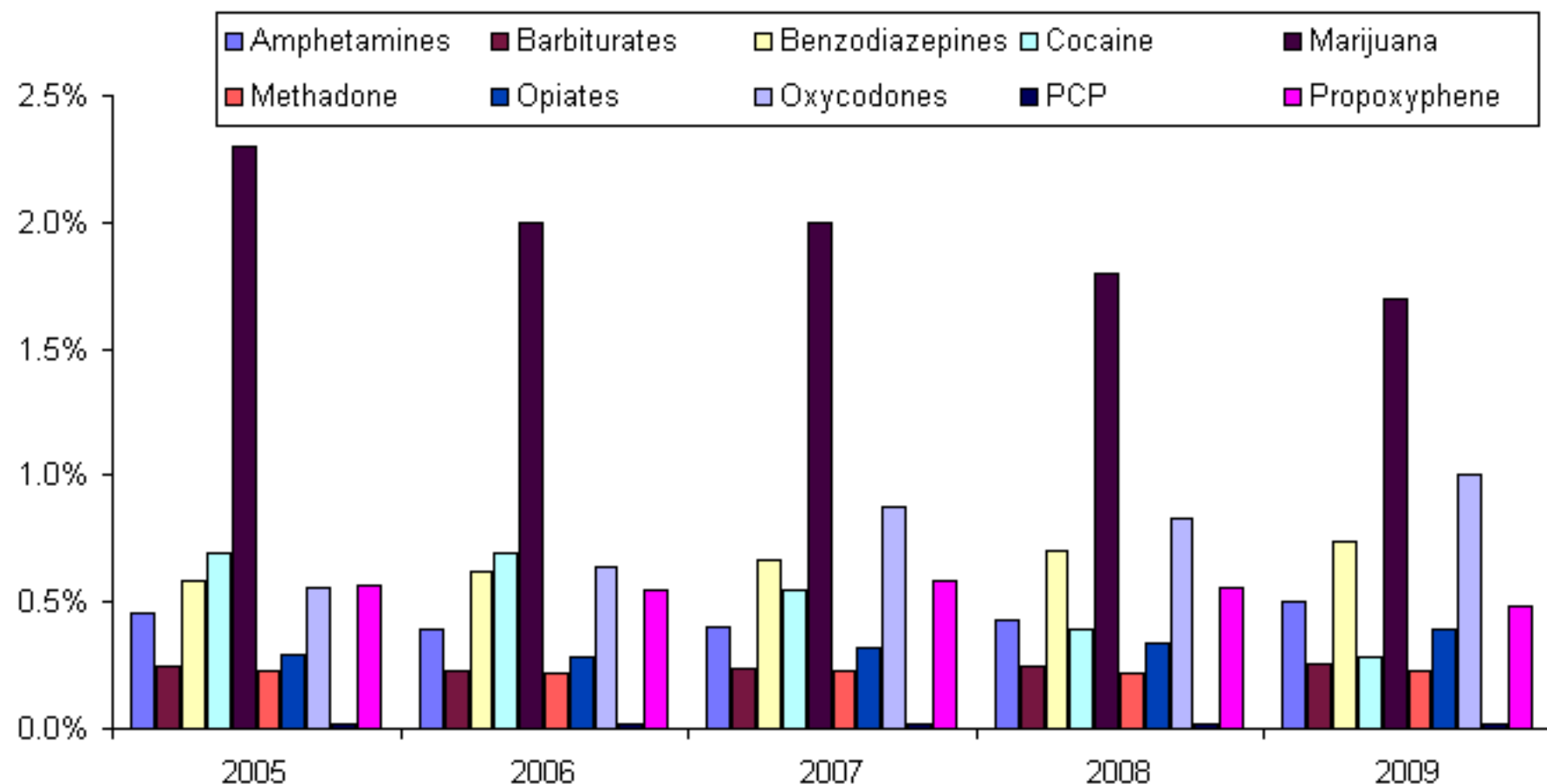
(More than 1.3 million tests from January to December 2009)



Positivity Rates By Drug Category - Urine Drug Tests
(For General U.S. Workforce, as a percentage of all such tests)
(More than 4.2 million tests from January to December 2009)



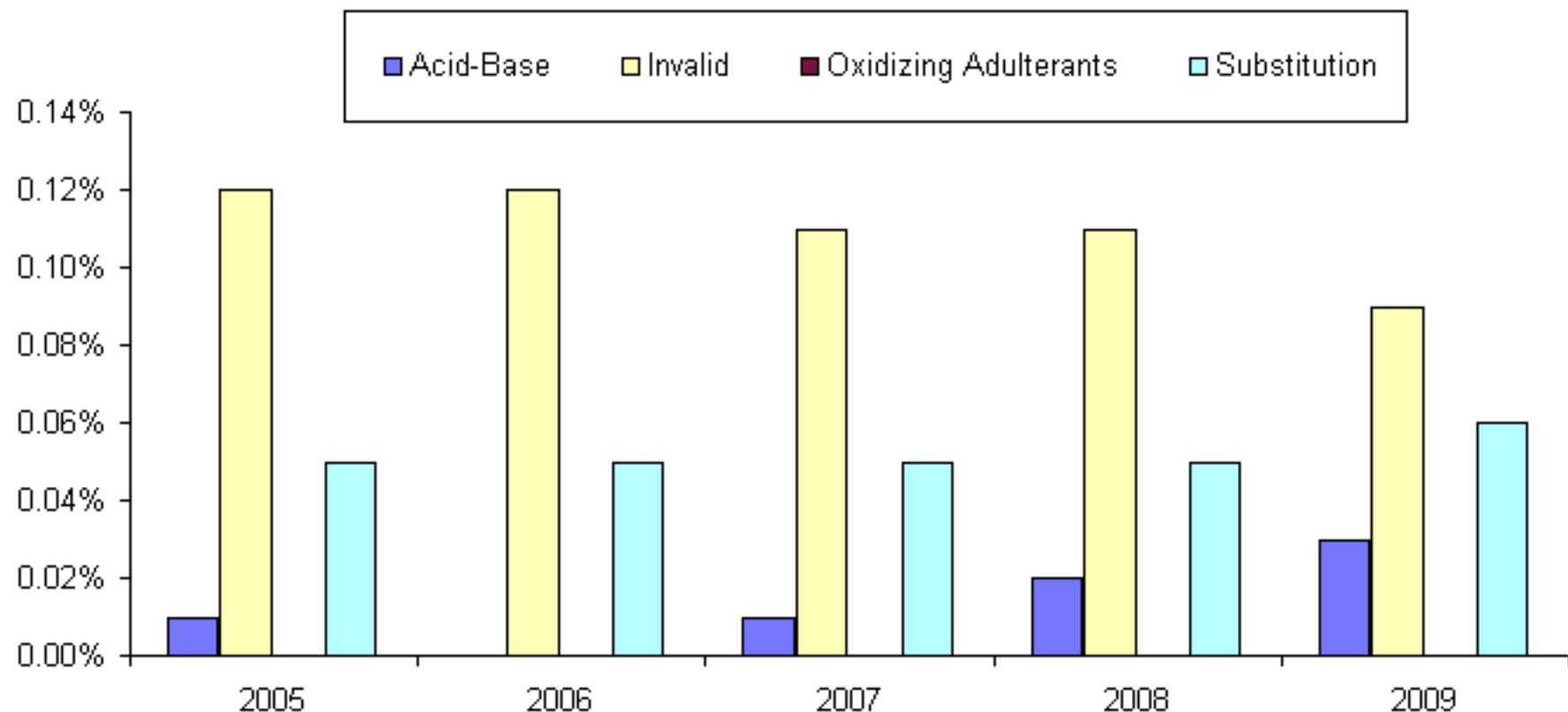
Positivity Rates By Drug Category - Urine Drug Tests
(For Combined U.S. Workforce, as a percentage of all such tests)
(More than 5.5 million tests from January to December 2009)



Non-Negative Rates By Specimen Validity Test (SVT) Category Urine Drug Tests

*(For Federally Mandated, Safety-Sensitive Workforce,
as a percentage of all such tests)*

(More than 1.3 million tests from January to December 2009)

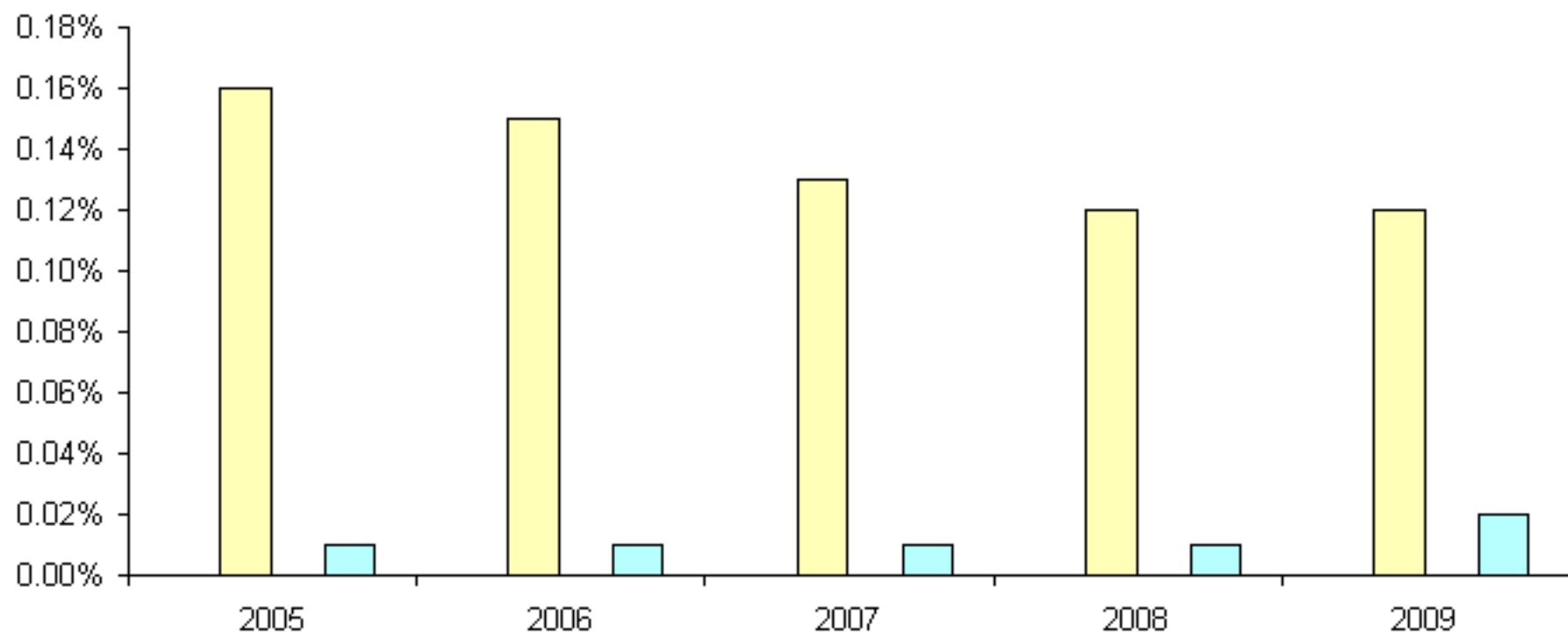


Non-Negative Rates By Specimen Validity Test (SVT) Category Urine Drug Tests

(For General U.S. Workforce, as a percentage of all such tests)

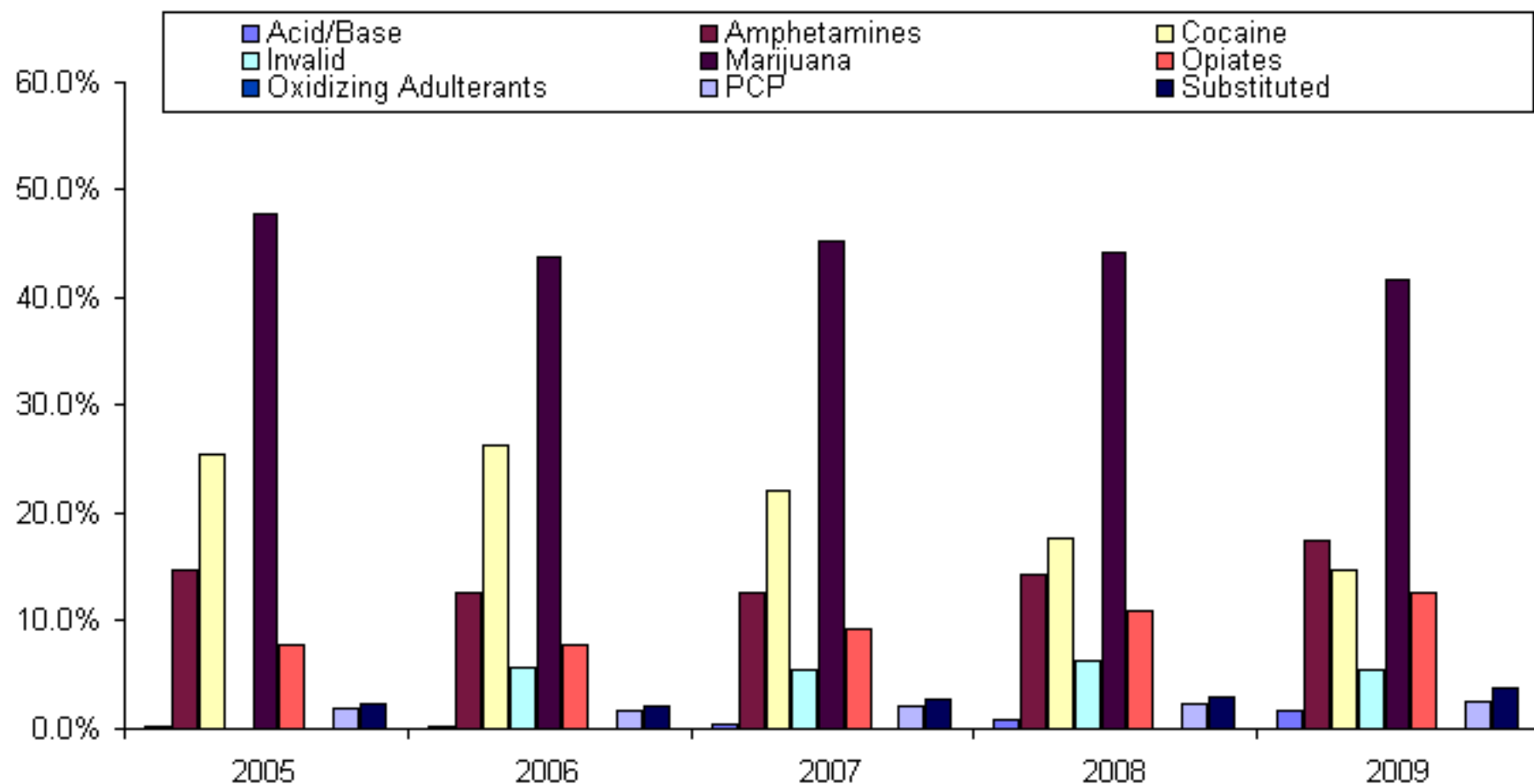
(More than 4.2 million tests from January to December 2009)

■ Acid-Base ■ Invalid ■ Oxidizing Adulterants ■ Substitution



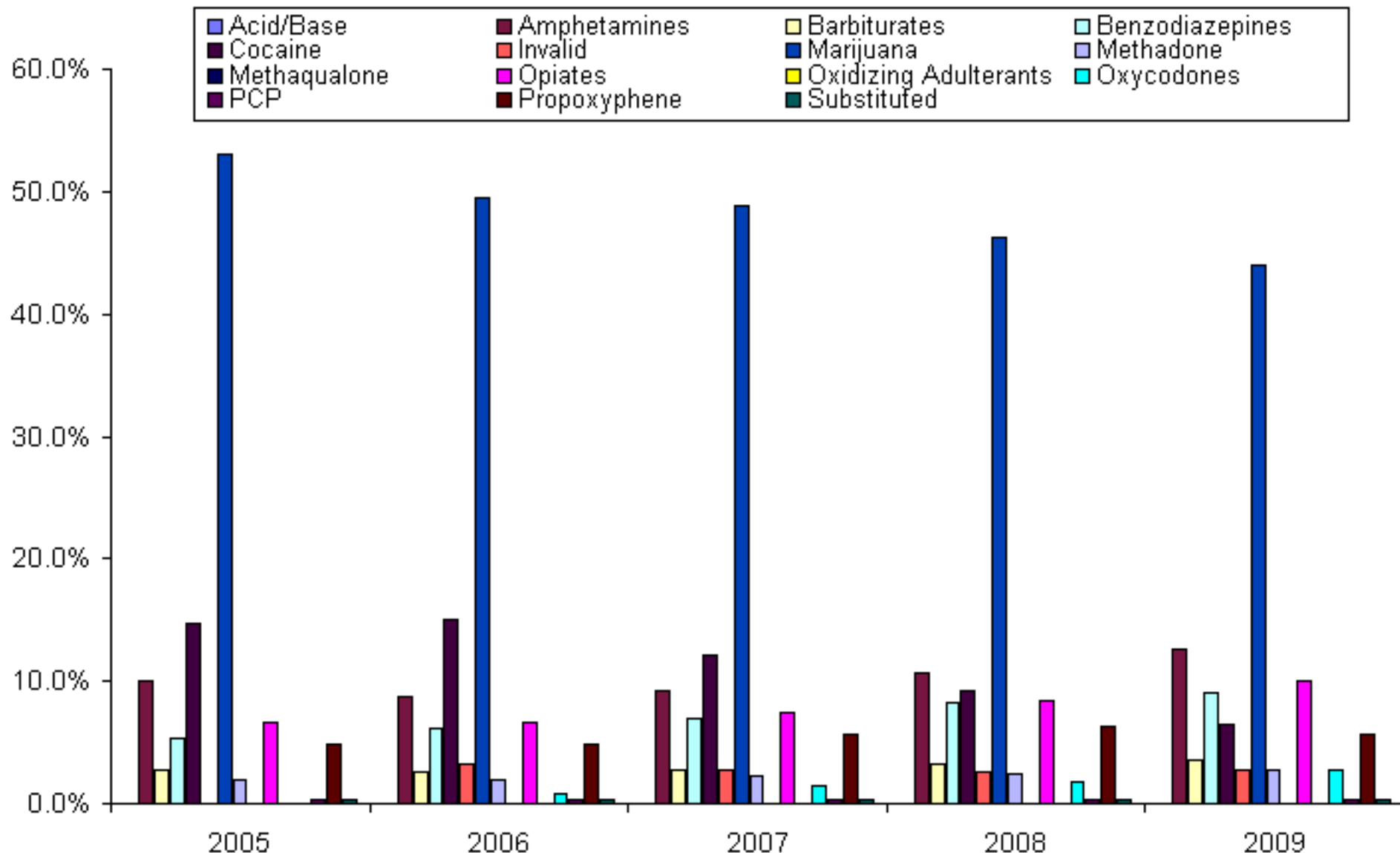
Non-Negative Rates By Drug/SVT Category - Urine Drug Tests
*(For Federally Mandated, Safety-Sensitive Workers,
as a Percentage of All Non-Negatives)*

(More than 22 thousand non-negative test results from January to December 2009)



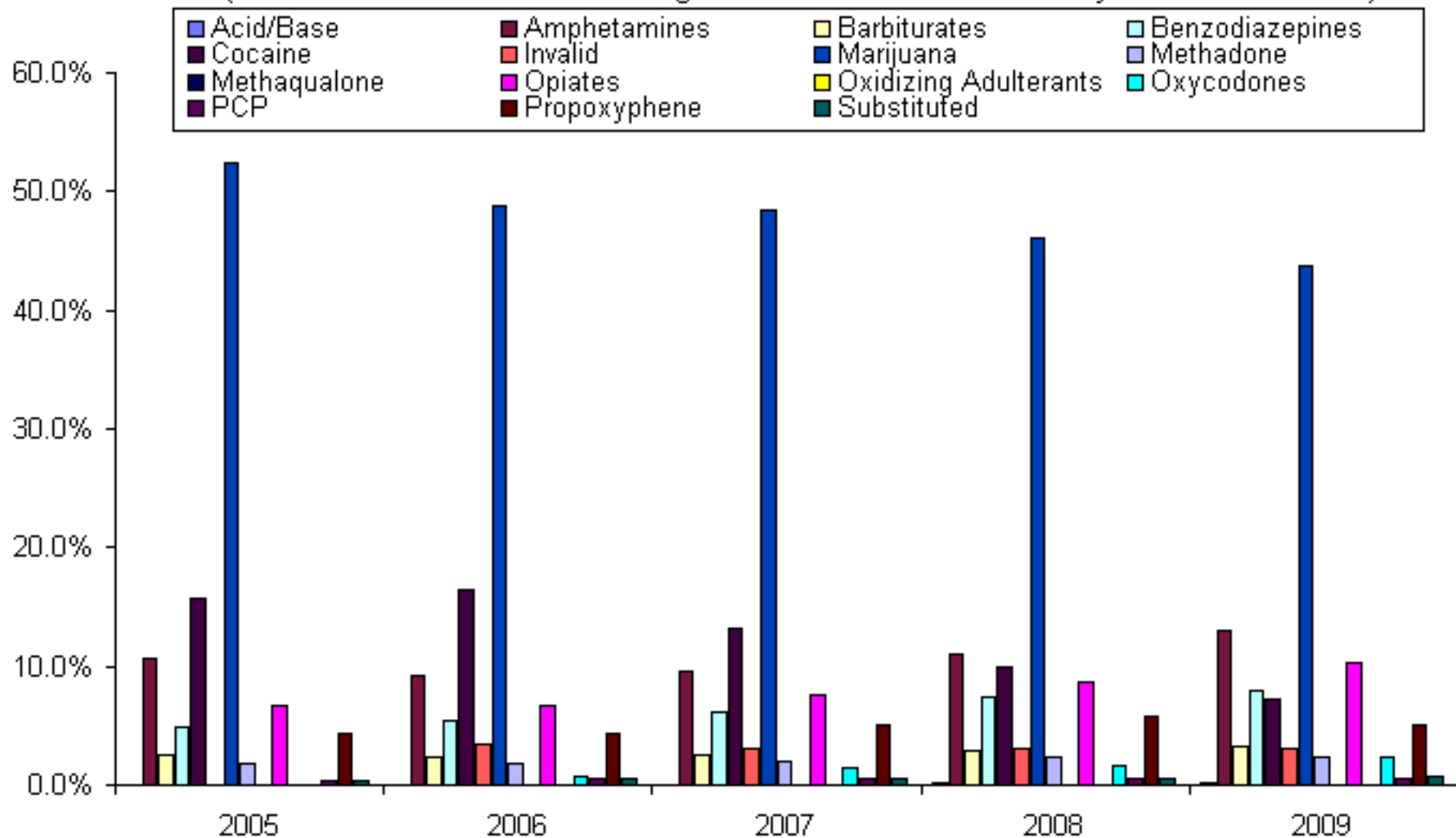
Non-Negative Rates By Drug/SVT Category - Urine Drug Tests (For General U.S. Workforce, as a Percentage of All Non-Negatives)

(More than 190 thousand non-negative test results from January to December 2009)



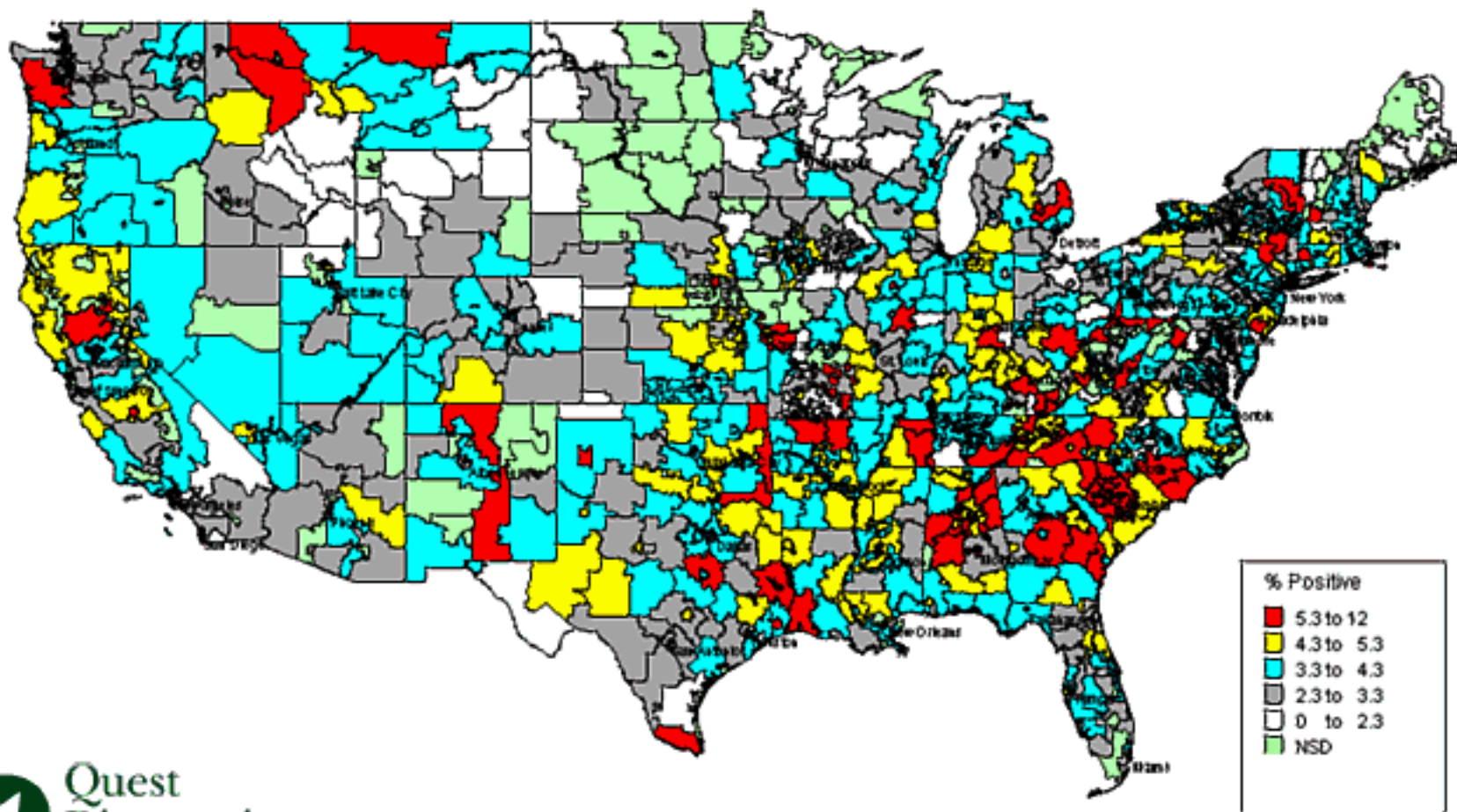
Non-Negative Rates By Drug/SVT Category - Urine Drug Tests (For Combined U.S. Workforce, as a Percentage of All Non-Negatives)

(More than 210 thousand non-negative test results from January to December 2009)



Overall Positivity by 3-Digit Zipcode

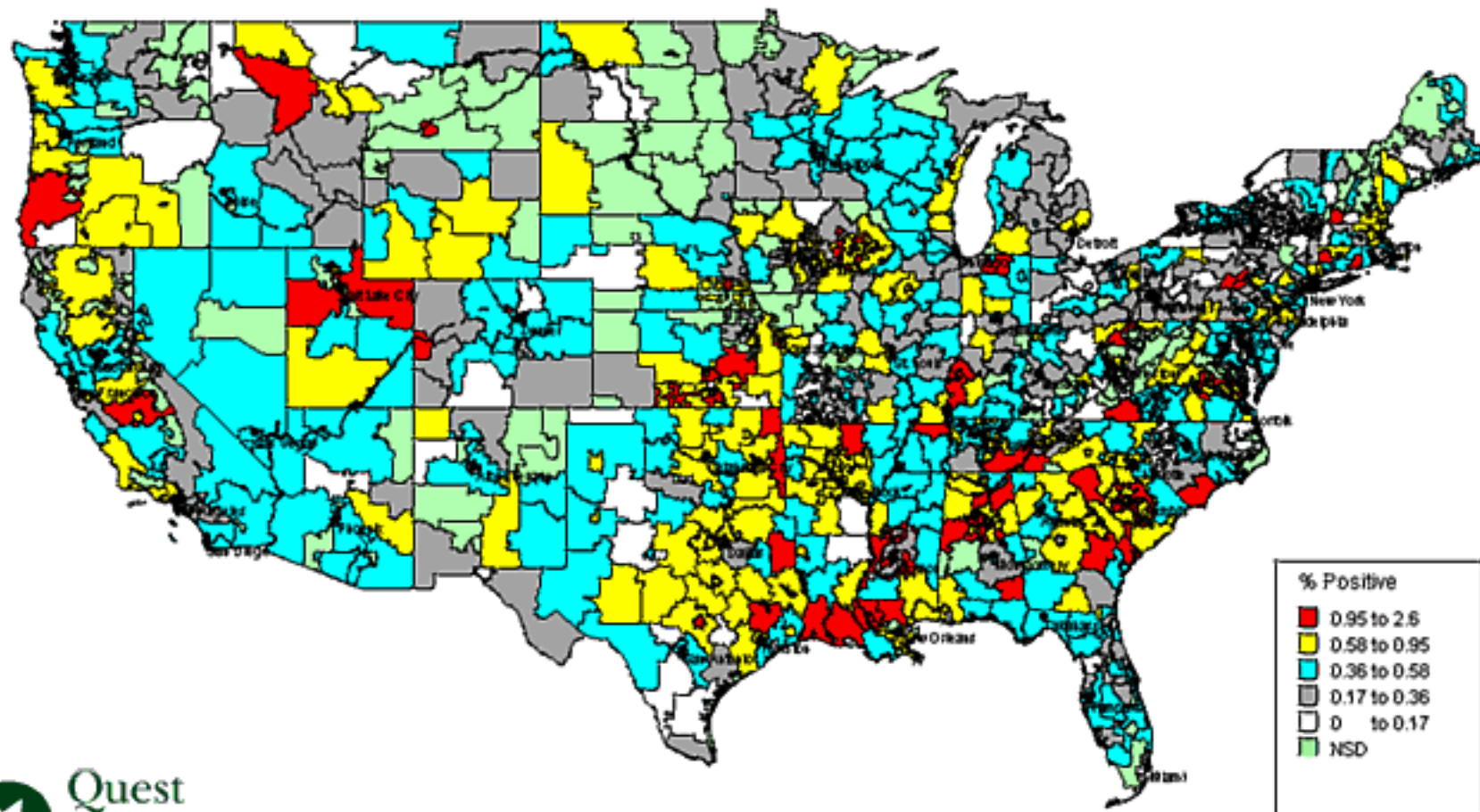
Urine Drug Tests | January–December 2009



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Amphetamines Positivity by 3-Digit Zipcode

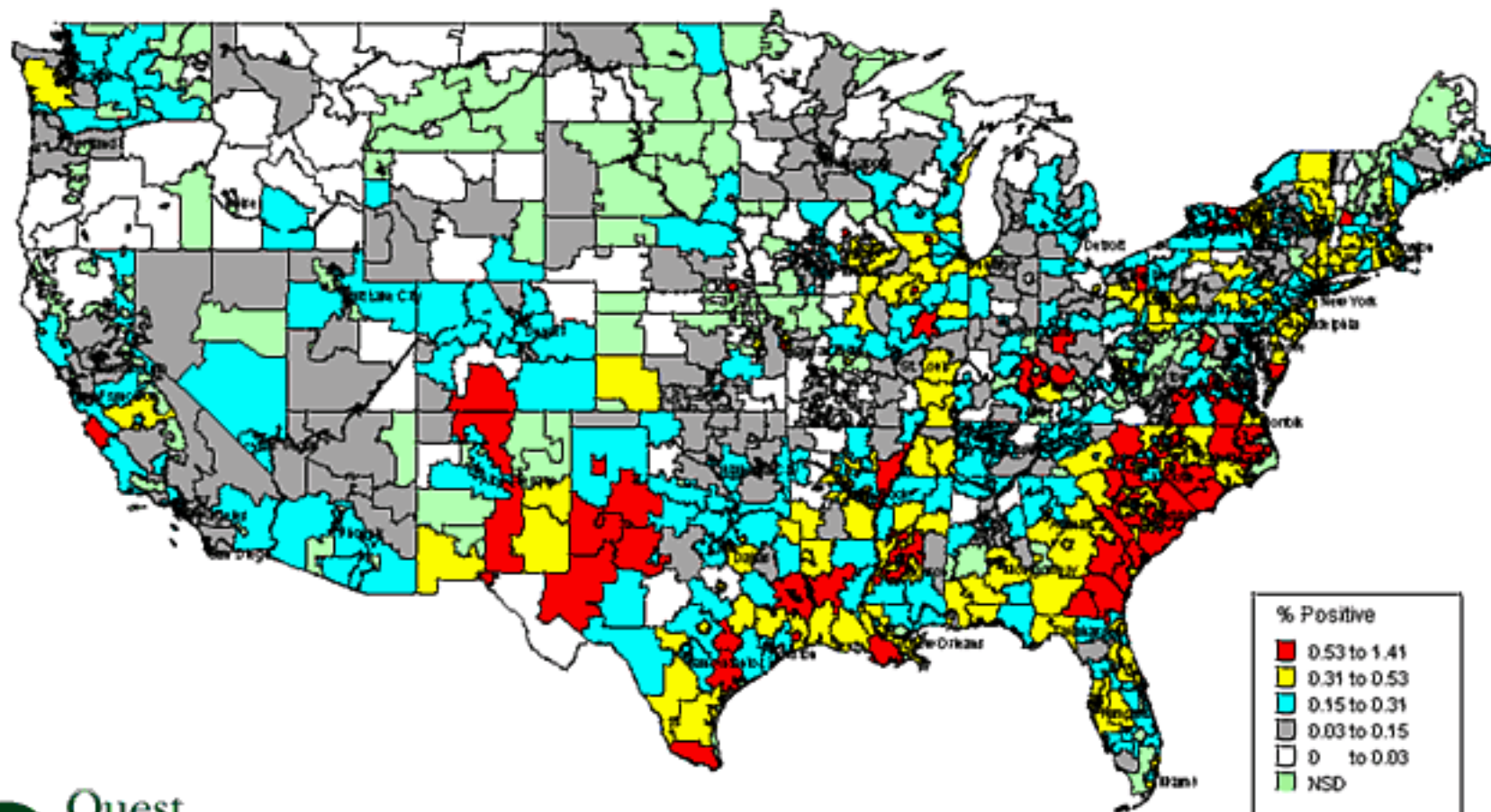
Urine Drug Tests | January–December 2009



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Cocaine Positivity by 3-Digit Zipcode

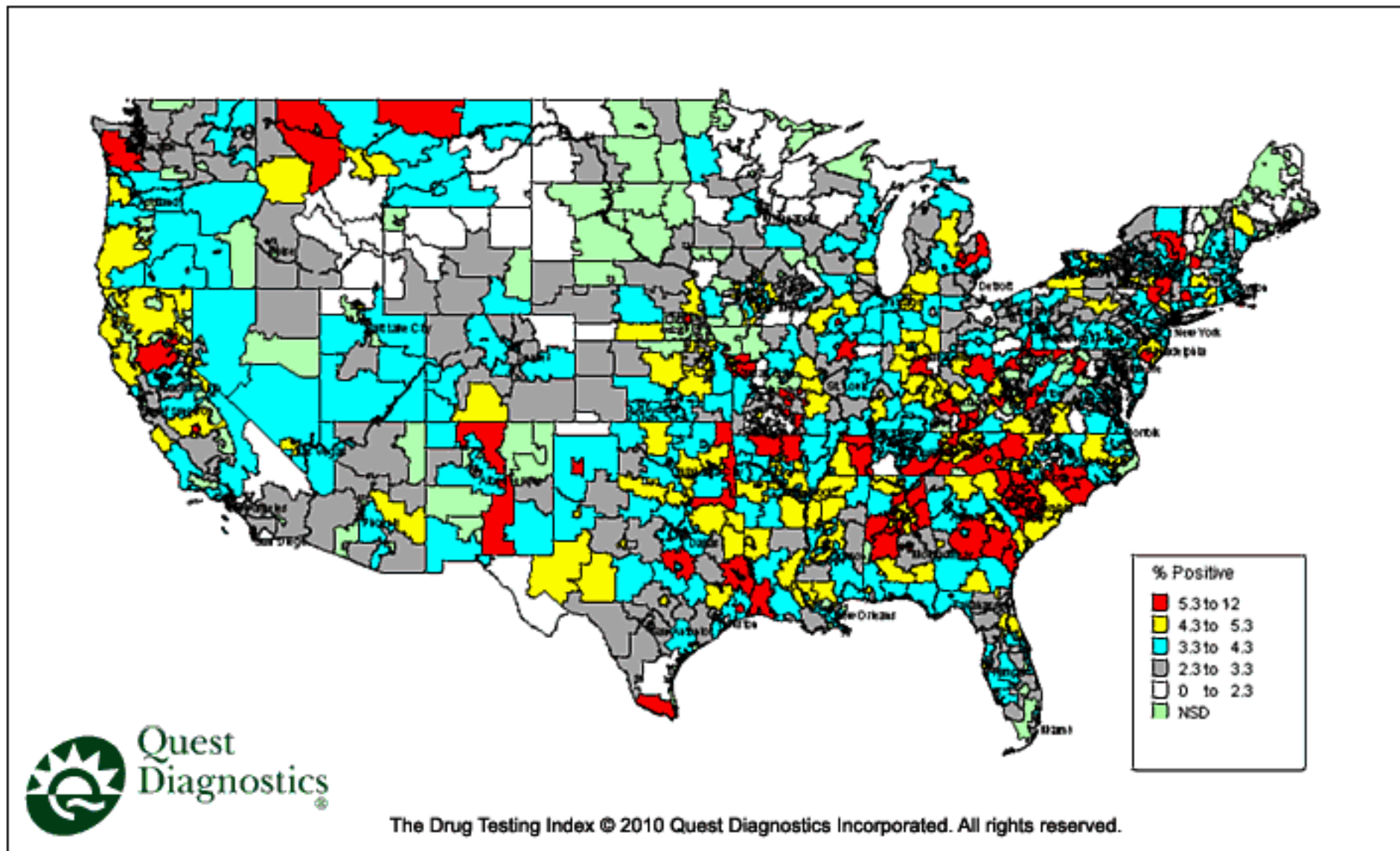
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Marijuana Positivity by 3-Digit Zipcode

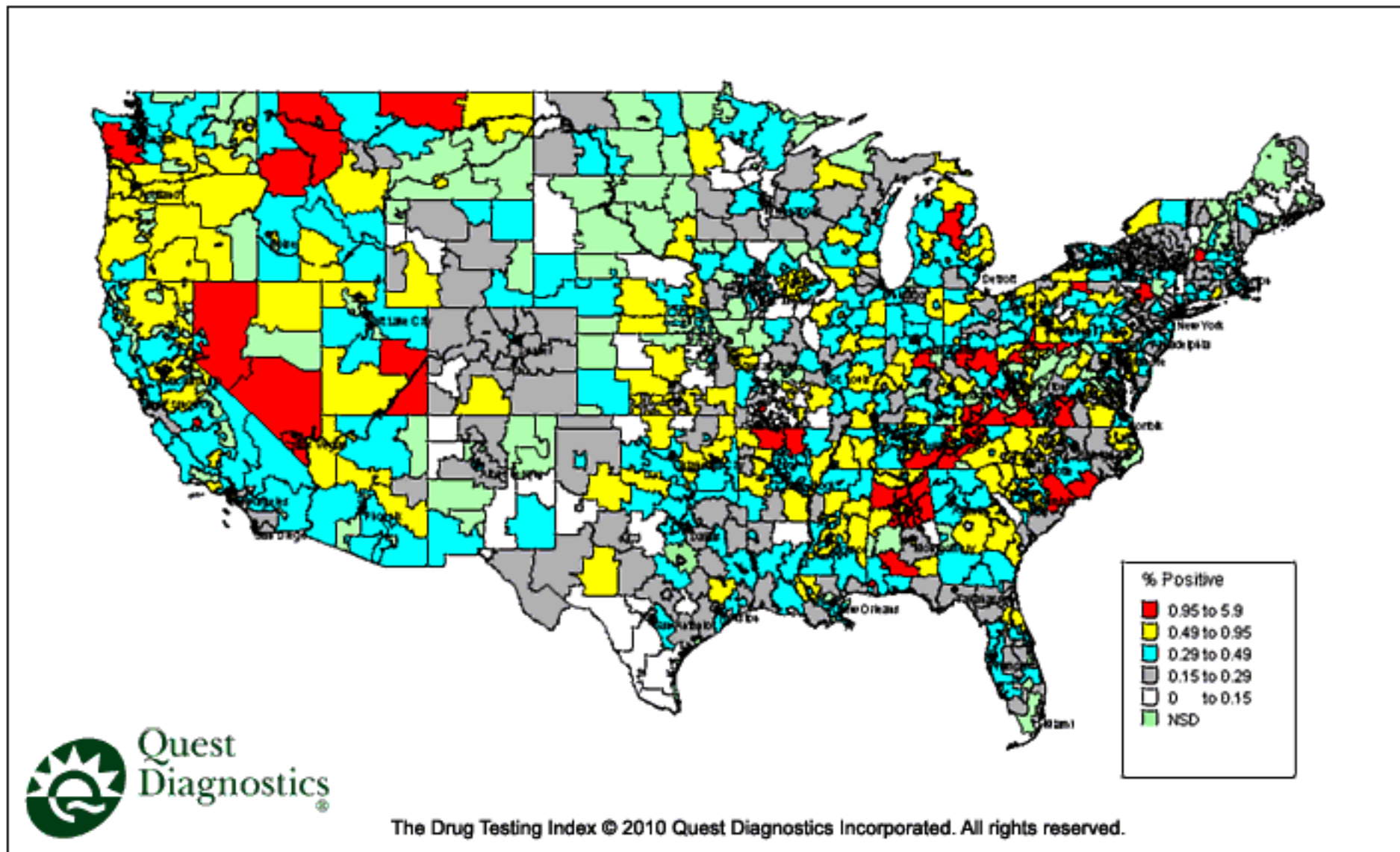
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Opiates Positivity by 3-Digit Zipcode

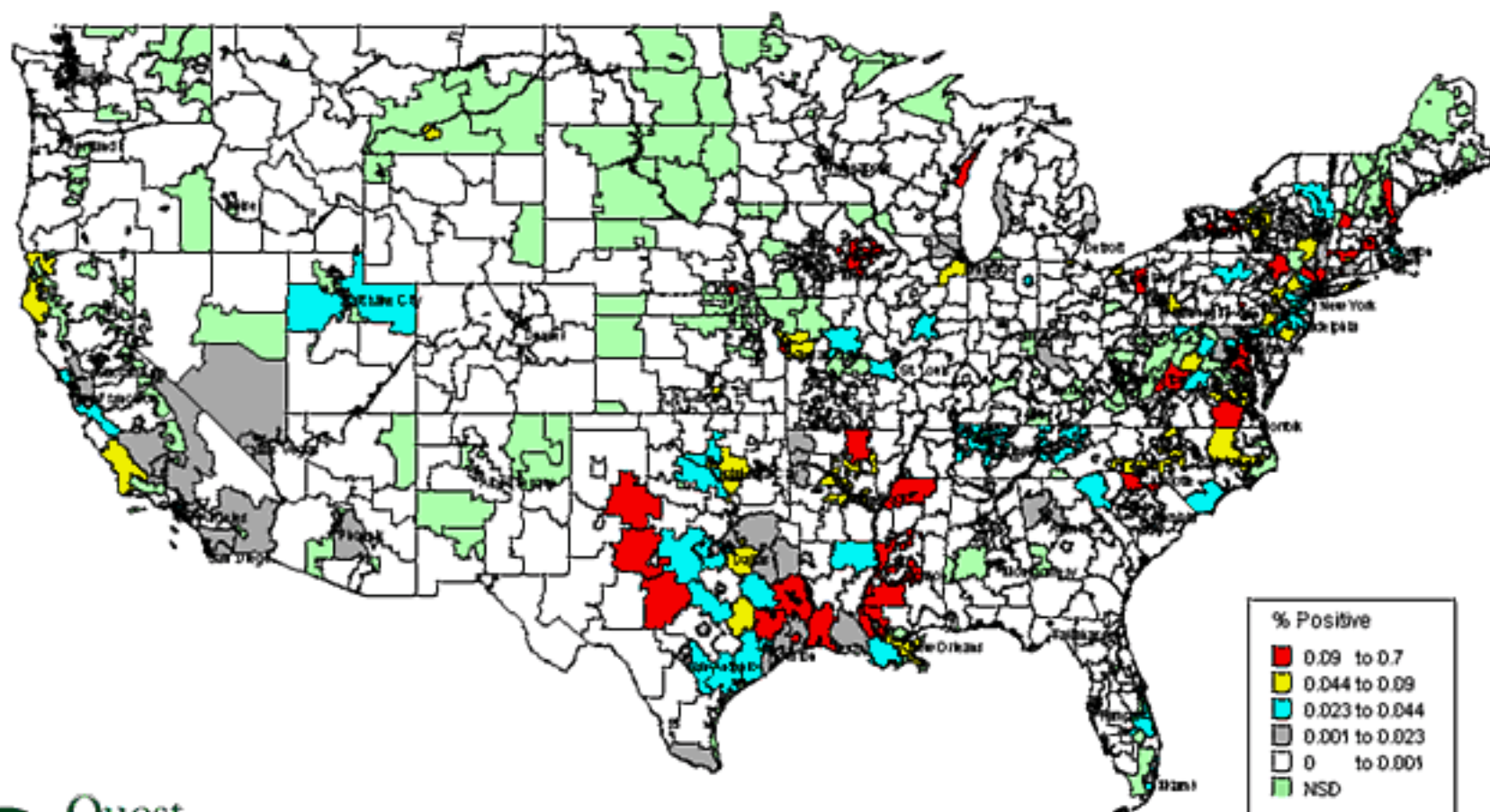
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PCP Positivity by 3-Digit Zipcode

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