

News from Quest Diagnostics

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Workforce Drug Positivity Rises by Double-Digits in Almost One-Third of U.S. Industry Sectors Examined, According to New Quest Diagnostics Analysis

Retail heads list of industries with highest overall positivity

Cocaine positivity increases nearly 43 percent in Retail, more than twice the overall increase of the general U.S. workforce

SECAUCUS, N.J., Dec. 19, 2018 – Drug use by the U.S. workforce increased each year -- and by double-digits over two years -- between 2015 and 2017, in five of 16 major U.S. industry sectors analyzed, according to a first-ever analysis of industry-specific data from more than ten million urine drug test results performed by Quest Diagnostics (NYSE: DGX), the world's leading provider of diagnostic information services.

The data from the Quest Diagnostics Drug Testing Index™ industry analysis show that the Retail Trade (5.3%), Health Care and Social Assistance (4.7%), and Real Estate Rental and Leasing (4.6%) sectors had the highest overall positivity rates in 2017, while the Utilities (2.8%) and Finance and Insurance (2.6%) sectors had the lowest rates.

Five sectors experienced year-over-year increases with a double-digit increase in their positivity rates between 2015 and 2017: Transportation and Warehousing (21.4%); Other Services (Except Public Administration) (15.4%); Finance and Insurance (13%); Retail Trade (12.8%); and Wholesale Trade (11.8%).

“Our analysis suggests that employers can’t assume that workforce drug use isn’t an issue in their industry. In fact, drug test positivity in the majority of industry sectors analyzed is growing,” said Barry Sample, PhD, senior director, science and technology, Quest Diagnostics Employer Solutions. “The highest rates were in consumer-facing industries, including jobs in Retail and Health Care and Social Assistance.”

In a 2017 [survey](#) by the National Safety Council, 71 percent of employers reported being directly impacted by prescription drug misuse in their workforce, including absenteeism, decreased productivity, and on-the-job near miss or injury.

Classifications were based on the [North American Industry Classification System](#) (NAICS), used by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, Canada, and Mexico to group organizations into industries based on the similarity of their production processes. Sixteen of the 20 industry sectors were included in the Quest analysis; four classifications were excluded due to insufficient testing volume.

Marijuana tops the list as the most detected substance

Consistent with the annual [Drug Testing Index](#) report, marijuana was the most commonly detected substance, with the highest drug positivity rate of all drug classes across the majority of industry sectors. Marijuana positivity was highest in Accommodation and Food Services, at 3.5 percent in 2017, more than 34 percent higher than the national positivity rate of 2.6 percent for the general U.S. workforce.

Eight sectors experienced year-over-year increases with at least 20 percent increases in marijuana positivity rates between 2015 and 2017:

- Transportation and Warehousing (33.3%)
- Other Services (except Public Administration) (33.3%)
- Construction (26.7%)
- Wholesale Trade (23.5%)
- Manufacturing (23.1%)
- Accommodation and Food Services (20.7%)
- Administrative Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services (19.0%)
- Retail Trade (18.5%)

“As companies consider strategies to protect their workplaces, they should also consider the risks that employees who use drugs present to their co-workers, customers and the general public,” said Kimberly Samano, PhD, scientific director, Employer Solutions, Quest Diagnostics. “This new analysis suggests that an increasing number of applicants and employees across various industries may be misusing dangerous drugs.”

Other observations by drug category include:

- The amphetamine positivity rate grew year-over-year and nearly 14 percent between 2015 and 2017 in the Educational Services sector, and rose by nearly 16 percent in the Health Care and Social Assistance sector. Amphetamine is a central nervous system stimulant and includes drugs such as Adderall® that may be prescribed for certain conditions, but which may also be used illicitly.
- Methamphetamine positivity was highest in the Construction sector in each of the three years analyzed, and experienced a 15 percent increase during that period. Methamphetamine, which is a prescription drug but is most often associated with illicit use and production in clandestine laboratories, is a potent version of amphetamine that has more harmful effects on the central nervous system and has a high potential for misuse.
- Cocaine positivity is higher in most sectors in 2017 as compared to 2015. The following sectors experienced the greatest year-over-year increases in cocaine positivity between 2015 and 2017:
 - Retail Trade (42.9%)
 - Administrative Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services (35.3%)
 - Transportation and Warehousing (22.7%)

Positivity varies significantly in prevalence and by drug among industry sectors

Among other industry-specific findings:

- The Retail Trade sector, with the highest 2017 positivity rate among the sixteen sectors reported, observed increases in overall positivity in each year between 2015 and 2017 (positivity rate of 4.7% in 2015, 5.1% in 2016, 5.3% in 2017). In addition to a nearly 43 percent growth in cocaine positivity between 2015 and 2017 -- overall twice the increase of the general U.S. workforce -- marijuana positivity increased more than 18 percent in the sector.
- Between 2015 and 2017, the Transportation and Warehousing sector experienced the largest overall positivity increase of any sector, in large part due to significant increases in both cocaine and marijuana positivity. Year-over-year cocaine positivity increased more than 22 percent between 2015 and 2017 (0.22% in 2015, 0.25% in 2016, and 0.27% in 2017). Marijuana positivity increased by more than 33 percent over the same timeframe.
- Educational Services topped the list for amphetamine positivity in all three years of the analysis (1.45% in 2015, 1.6% in 2016, and 1.65% in 2017), equating to an increase of nearly 14 percent. At the same time, the sector saw the largest year-over-year decline in methamphetamine positivity of any sector analyzed, declining nearly 29% between 2015 and 2017.

- The Construction sector ranked highest among industries for cocaine positivity (0.41% in 2017) – more than 33% higher the general U.S. workforce. The Construction sector also exhibited a more than 26 percent increase in marijuana positivity between 2015 and 2017.
- In the Manufacturing sector, both marijuana and methamphetamine positivity increased year-over-year, by more than 23 and 27 percent, respectively, between 2015 and 2017.
- The Wholesale Trade sector experienced double-digit growth in overall positivity from 2015 to 2017, largely related to the more than 36 percent and 24 percent increases in methamphetamine and marijuana positivity, respectively, during that time period.
- The Information sector showed the largest growth (more than 20%) in amphetamine positivity between 2015 and 2017, but was the only sector to experience a year-over-year decline (more than 8%) in marijuana positivity during that same three-year period.
- Other Services (except Public Administration) showed large increases in positivity for marijuana (more than 33%) and cocaine (19%) between 2015 and 2017.

About the Quest Diagnostics Drug Testing Index™

The Quest Diagnostics Drug Testing Index™ (DTI) provides insights into trends in workforce drug use, based on positivity results for de-identified laboratory testing performed by Quest Diagnostics for a range of illicit, legal and prescription drugs. It examines test results according to three categories of workers: federally-mandated, safety-sensitive workers (FMSS); the general workforce; and the combined U.S. workforce. In 2018, the DTI introduced an industry analysis based on distinct industry sectors using NAICS codes. This analysis reflects laboratory urine drug test results for the U.S. general workforce and does not include the federally-mandated safety-sensitive workforce.

The strengths of the Drug Testing Index analysis include its large, nationally representative sample size, longitudinal monitoring, a testing population that is generally reflective of the U.S. workforce and the quality of the company's drug testing services to confirm positive results. Limitations include analysis only of employers that perform drug testing with the company and a lack of exact cross-specimen comparisons due to variations in substances for which employers test. Quest Diagnostics has analyzed annual workforce drug testing data since 1988, and publishes the findings as a public service.

In addition to workforce drug testing, Quest is a leader in clinician-ordered drug testing services to aid the detection of potentially dangerous forms of prescription and illicit drug use in clinical settings. For more information, visit QuestDrugMonitoring.com.

About Quest Diagnostics

Quest Diagnostics empowers people to take action to improve health outcomes. Derived from the world's largest database of clinical lab results, our diagnostic insights reveal new avenues to identify and treat disease, inspire healthy behaviors and improve health care management. Quest annually serves one in three adult Americans and half the physicians and hospitals in the United States, and our 45,000 employees understand that, in the right hands and with the right context, our diagnostic insights can inspire actions that transform lives. www.QuestDiagnostics.com.

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Industry Insights

Quest Diagnostics Drug Testing Index™

Table 1. Overall Positivity Rates
Urine Drug Tests - General U.S. Workforce

(More than 10 million tests from 2015 - 2017)

Industry	2015	2016	2017
Accommodation and Food Services	4.4%	4.7%	4.5%
Admin Support, Waste & Remediation Services	4.1%	4.4%	4.5%
Construction	3.7%	4.0%	4.0%
Educational Services	3.1%	3.2%	3.1%
Finance and Insurance	2.3%	2.5%	2.6%
Health Care and Social Assistance	4.6%	4.7%	4.7%
Information	4.2%	4.2%	3.9%
Manufacturing	3.2%	3.3%	3.4%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	3.9%	4.1%	4.5%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	3.4%	3.5%	3.4%
Public Administration	3.4%	3.8%	3.5%
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	4.5%	4.7%	4.6%
Retail Trade	4.7%	5.1%	5.3%
Transportation and Warehousing	2.8%	3.1%	3.4%
Utilities	3.0%	2.9%	2.8%
Wholesale Trade	3.4%	3.7%	3.8%

**Table 2. Positivity Rates by Drug: Marijuana
Urine Drug Tests - General U.S. Workforce**

(More than 10 million tests from 2015 - 2017)

Industry	2015	2016	2017
Accommodation and Food Services	2.9%	3.2%	3.5%
Admin Support, Waste & Remediation Services	2.1%	2.3%	2.5%
Construction	1.5%	1.6%	1.9%
Educational Services	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%
Finance and Insurance	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%
Health Care and Social Assistance	1.8%	1.8%	1.9%
Information	2.4%	2.3%	2.2%
Manufacturing	1.3%	1.4%	1.6%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	2.1%	2.3%	2.8%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Public Administration	0.9%	1.1%	1.1%
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	2.4%	2.6%	2.6%
Retail Trade	2.7%	2.9%	3.2%
Transportation and Warehousing	1.5%	1.7%	2.0%
Utilities	1.2%	1.2%	1.0%
Wholesale Trade	1.7%	1.9%	2.1%

**Table 3. Positivity Rates by Drug: Cocaine
Urine Drug Tests - General U.S. Workforce**

(More than 10 million tests from 2015 - 2017)

Industry	2015	2016	2017
Accommodation and Food Services	0.26%	0.24%	0.31%
Admin Support, Waste & Remediation Services	0.17%	0.20%	0.23%
Construction	0.38%	0.42%	0.41%
Educational Services	0.06%	0.06%	0.05%
Finance and Insurance	0.06%	0.06%	0.07%
Health Care and Social Assistance	0.17%	0.17%	0.19%
Information	0.13%	0.16%	0.15%
Manufacturing	0.16%	0.19%	0.19%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	0.21%	0.22%	0.25%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	0.16%	0.19%	0.19%
Public Administration	0.11%	0.13%	0.13%
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	0.22%	0.22%	0.23%
Retail Trade	0.14%	0.17%	0.20%
Transportation and Warehousing	0.22%	0.25%	0.27%
Utilities	0.21%	0.19%	0.20%
Wholesale Trade	0.19%	0.23%	0.22%

**Table 4. Positivity Rates by Drug: Opiates
Urine Drug Tests - General U.S. Workforce**

(More than 10 million tests from 2015 - 2017)

Industry	2015	2016	2017
Accommodation and Food Services	0.30%	0.35%	0.31%
Admin Support, Waste & Remediation Services	0.35%	0.34%	0.28%
Construction	0.46%	0.59%	0.34%
Educational Services	0.22%	0.18%	0.16%
Finance and Insurance	0.24%	0.26%	0.24%
Health Care and Social Assistance	0.57%	0.55%	0.47%
Information	0.35%	0.34%	0.27%
Manufacturing	0.46%	0.43%	0.33%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	0.37%	0.35%	0.30%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	0.35%	0.35%	0.27%
Public Administration	0.61%	0.60%	0.47%
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	0.40%	0.45%	0.32%
Retail Trade	0.31%	0.32%	0.32%
Transportation and Warehousing	0.24%	0.22%	0.20%
Utilities	0.34%	0.31%	0.28%
Wholesale Trade	0.30%	0.32%	0.22%

**Table 5. Positivity Rates by Drug: Amphetamines (Amphetamine and Methamphetamine)
Urine Drug Tests - General U.S. Workforce**

(More than 10 million tests from 2015 - 2017)

Industry	2015	2016	2017
Accommodation and Food Services	0.70%	0.75%	0.75%
Admin Support, Waste & Remediation Services	0.95%	0.99%	0.98%
Construction	0.95%	1.03%	1.02%
Educational Services	1.47%	1.61%	1.66%
Finance and Insurance	0.90%	0.98%	1.01%
Health Care and Social Assistance	1.22%	1.34%	1.40%
Information	0.90%	0.91%	1.01%
Manufacturing	0.93%	1.00%	1.03%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	0.86%	0.89%	0.89%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1.06%	1.08%	1.04%
Public Administration	1.11%	1.40%	1.35%
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	0.86%	0.89%	0.87%
Retail Trade	0.91%	0.95%	0.97%
Transportation and Warehousing	0.67%	0.70%	0.69%
Utilities	0.87%	0.91%	0.95%
Wholesale Trade	0.97%	1.03%	1.01%

**Table 6. Positivity Rates by Drug: Amphetamine
Urine Drug Tests - General U.S. Workforce**

(More than 10 million tests from 2015 - 2017)

Industry	2015	2016	2017
Accommodation and Food Services	0.68%	0.71%	0.72%
Admin Support, Waste & Remediation Services	0.94%	0.99%	0.98%
Construction	0.90%	0.99%	1.00%
Educational Services	1.45%	1.60%	1.65%
Finance and Insurance	0.92%	0.99%	1.03%
Health Care and Social Assistance	1.20%	1.32%	1.39%
Information	0.89%	0.91%	1.07%
Manufacturing	0.93%	0.99%	1.00%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	0.83%	0.88%	0.88%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1.05%	1.08%	1.04%
Public Administration	1.10%	1.38%	1.33%
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	0.87%	0.90%	0.91%
Retail Trade	0.89%	0.93%	0.95%
Transportation and Warehousing	0.65%	0.68%	0.67%
Utilities	0.90%	0.97%	1.00%
Wholesale Trade	0.96%	1.01%	0.98%

**Table 7. Positivity Rates by Drug: Methamphetamine
Urine Drug Tests - General U.S. Workforce**

(More than 10 million tests from 2015 - 2017)

Industry	2015	2016	2017
Accommodation and Food Services	0.12%	0.15%	0.13%
Admin Support, Waste & Remediation Services	0.10%	0.11%	0.12%
Construction	0.20%	0.21%	0.23%
Educational Services	0.07%	0.06%	0.05%
Finance and Insurance	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%
Health Care and Social Assistance	0.15%	0.19%	0.19%
Information	0.09%	0.08%	0.07%
Manufacturing	0.11%	0.13%	0.14%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	0.13%	0.11%	0.12%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	0.09%	0.10%	0.09%
Public Administration	0.12%	0.13%	0.13%
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	0.13%	0.16%	0.14%
Retail Trade	0.09%	0.09%	0.09%
Transportation and Warehousing	0.09%	0.10%	0.10%
Utilities	0.07%	0.08%	0.06%
Wholesale Trade	0.11%	0.13%	0.15%