



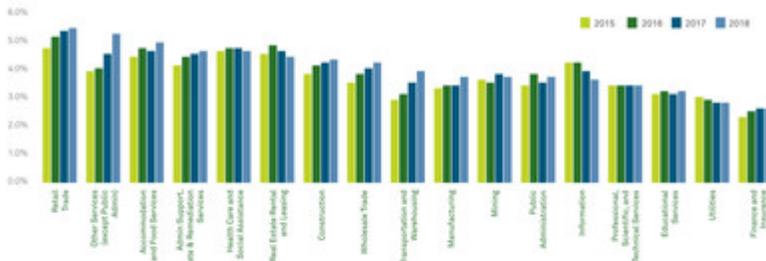
Workforce Drug Positivity Increases in More Than One-Third of U.S. Industry Sectors Examined, According to Quest Diagnostics Multi-Year Analysis

September 11, 2019

**Retail industry tops list with highest overall positivity rate for four consecutive years
Marijuana most commonly detected drug, with increases in almost half of industry sectors**

SECAUCUS, N.J., Sept. 11, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- One third of U.S. industry sectors experienced year-over-year double-digit increases in workforce drug positivity between 2015 and 2018, according to a new analysis of industry-specific data by Quest Diagnostics (NYSE: DGX), the world's leading provider of diagnostic information services. The findings will be presented at the Substance Abuse Program Administrators Association (SAPAA) conference in Philadelphia, PA on September 18, 2019.

Workforce drug positivity rates by industry sector



Percentages reflect year-over-year increases between 2015 and 2018. Percent increases have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Data Points are based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Members of the 20 industry sectors were included in the industry analysis; three classifications were excluded from the analysis due to insufficient testing volume.



Quest Diagnostics Drug Testing Index™ 2019
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The Quest Diagnostics Drug Testing Index™ industry analysis of general U.S. workforce urine drug test results shows year-over-year double-digit increases in workplace drug positivity in six of the 17 sectors reported.

The company's analysis of more than 14 million urine drug test results provides industry specific insights based on objective lab data identifying the presence of several drugs, including marijuana, amphetamines, cocaine and opiates across a nationally representative workforce population. Among these, the Retail Trade industry experienced the highest overall positivity rate (4.7% in 2015, 5.1% in 2016, 5.3% in 2017, and 5.4% in 2018) across all four years of the analysis. As compared to the national positivity rates, the positivity rates in Retail Trade exceeded the national positivity rate for the general U.S. workforce in the most recent three years (4.9% in 2016, 5.0% in 2017, and 5.1% in 2018), as reported earlier this year in the company's 2019 [Drug Testing Index](#), which examines drug positivity generally across the U.S. workforce.

Additionally, Retail Trade is one of six sectors that saw year-over-year double-digit increases in positivity between 2015 and 2018. Five of these experienced an overall four-year increase in general U.S. workforce positivity more than double that of the national increase (6.2%) over the same time period:

- Transportation & Warehousing (34.5%)
- Other Services (except Public Administration) (33.3%)
- Wholesale Trade (20.0%)
- Retail Trade (14.9%)
- Construction (13.2%)
- Administrative Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services (12.2%)

"Our longitudinal examination of drug positivity data suggests drug use by the nation's workforce is growing across a broad swath of industries," said Barry Sample, PhD, senior director, science and technology, Quest Diagnostics. "Of particular concern are sharp jumps in positivity rates seen in sectors like transportation and warehousing and construction that directly affect public safety. Staying vigilant and providing support for employees who test positive for drug use are key for employers seeking to maintain a safe, healthy workforce."

Classifications are 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. Seventeen of the 20 industry

sectors were included in the Quest analysis; three classifications were excluded due to insufficient testing volume.

Barry Sample, PhD, senior director of science & technology at Quest Diagnostics, and Ashlyn Hazard, associate manager, data analytics at Quest Diagnostics will share the latest data and analysis from the Drug Testing Index Industry report via a live webcast on Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 2 p.m. EDT. [Click here](#) to register and attend.

Marijuana positivity increases in nearly half of industry sectors

Marijuana was the most commonly detected drug, with the highest positivity rates, in the majority of sectors. Educational Services, Mining, and Public Administration were the only sectors where marijuana was not the most commonly detected drug.

Positivity for marijuana increased by double digits in eight of the 17 sectors for each of the years between 2015 and 2018. In 12 of the sectors, the growth rate (9.1% to 25.0%) in marijuana positivity between 2017 and 2018 was higher than the overall growth rate (7.7%) observed in the general U.S. workforce during the same time period. In 10 of the sectors, the growth rate in marijuana positivity between 2015 and 2018 was greater than 25 percent:

- Other Services (except Public Administration) (61.9%)
- Transportation & Warehousing (53.3%)
- Mining (50%)
- Wholesale Trade (47.1%)
- Construction (46.7%)
- Manufacturing (38.5%)
- Accommodation and Food Services (37.9%)
- Administrative Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services (33.3%)
- Public Administration (30.0%)
- Retail Trade (29.6%)

The Accommodation and Food Services sector had the highest marijuana positivity rates each of the four years analyzed (2.9% in 2015, 3.2% in 2016, 3.5% in 2017, and 4.0% in 2018). The Information sector was the only industry grouping with year-over-year decreases in marijuana positivity all years of the analysis, with a 12.5% relative decrease between 2015 and 2018. It was also the only sector with a decrease in positivity between 2017 and 2018 (2.2% versus 2.1%).

Despite having the highest marijuana positivity rates for each of the four years analyzed, Accommodation and Food Services had the largest decline (-17.3%) in general U.S. workforce urine drug tests that included marijuana between 2015 and 2018.

"Marijuana use is a complex issue, and drug testing provides an objective view into its use in the workforce. Testing data reveals continual increases in positivity rates across several drug categories and industries. Our hope is that data-driven insights on drug use will inform better approaches to ensure the safety and health of the nation's workforce and the communities they serve," said Kim Samano, PhD, scientific director, Quest Diagnostics.

A 2016 [Joint Guidance Statement](#) of the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses and the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine noted the "potential consequences of marijuana use in the workplace include the risk and associated cost of adverse events and the loss of productivity."

In comparison to marijuana, positivity for opiates continued to decline. Eight of the 17 sectors showed year-over-year decreases at rates of 25 percent or more between 2015 and 2018. No sector experienced an increase in positivity from 2016 to 2017 or 2017 to 2018. Opiates are narcotic drugs that act as depressants on the central nervous system and refer specifically to morphine and codeine.

Other industry-specific findings

- The Construction sector showed the highest positivity rate for cocaine for all sectors in each year of the analysis and was more than 40 percent higher than the national rate in 2018 (0.40% vs. 0.28%). Construction was also the only sector with year-over-year increases in methamphetamine positivity (increasing 20 percent from 2015 to 2018) and was more than 30 percent higher than the national positivity in 2018 (0.24% vs. 0.18%).
- While cocaine positivity dipped nationally in 2018, one sector –Public Administration – continued to exhibit increases in 2018 as well as year-over-year increases between 2015 and 2018. The Public Administration sector increased 36.4% (0.11% to 0.15%) in that period and was well above the national increase of 12 percent.
- In each of the four years analyzed, the Educational Services sector had the highest positivity for amphetamines (1.46% in 2015, 1.61% in 2016, 1.64% in 2017, 1.66% in 2018). Between 2015 and 2018, four sectors saw year-over-year increases in amphetamines positivity: Finance and Insurance (17.8%); Utilities (17.2%); Educational Services (13.7%); and Retail Trade (12.1%). Amphetamines may also include methamphetamine, which is more typically used illicitly.
- Six sectors showed year-over-year double-digit increases in amphetamine positivity between 2015 and 2018: Information (22.5%); Construction (16.7%); Finance and Insurance (16.3%); Educational Services (14.5%); Retail Trade (13.5%); and Utilities (13.3%). Amphetamine is a central nervous system stimulant and includes drugs such as Adderall, which may be prescribed for certain conditions.

- The Professional, Scientific and Technical Services sector is the only classification with no change in overall positivity across the four years examined, holding at 3.4% every year.

About Quest Diagnostics Drug Testing Index™

The [Quest Diagnostics Drug Testing Index™ \(DTI\)](#) is a series of reports that provide insights into trends in workforce drug use, based on positivity results for deidentified 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; 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 Health and Human Services. Quest Diagnostics has analyzed annual workplace drug testing data since 1988.

The strengths of the DTI 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, state-level industry demographics that may be partially reflective of regional drug use, and a lack of exact cross-specimen comparisons due to variations in substances for which employers test. Quest Diagnostics has analyzed annual workplace drug testing data since 1988 and publishes the findings as a public service. For an interactive map examining positivity results in the combined U.S. workforce results by three-digit Zip Code, visit www.DTIDrugMap.com.

In addition to workplace 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.

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 46,000 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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