



Amphetamines Use in the Workplace Continued to Grow, According to Quest Diagnostics' 2004 Drug Testing Index

May 16, 2005

LYNDHURST, N.J., May 16 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/-- The use of amphetamines among general workforce employees continued to grow in 2004, according to the semi-annual Drug Testing Index(R) released today by Quest Diagnostics Incorporated (NYSE: DGX), the leading provider of employer drug testing services in the United States.

Amphetamines use, which grew rapidly between 2000 and 2003, continued to grow in 2004, although at a slower rate. Among general U.S. workforce employees, the incidence of positive drug tests attributed to amphetamines rose by approximately 6% in 2004 from 2003, reaching 0.52% of all drug tests that look for amphetamines among this group of workers. During 2003 amphetamines positivity was 0.49%. Between 2000 and 2003, year-over-year growth rates for amphetamines positivity had been 16%, 17% and 44%, respectively.

Among Federally-mandated, safety-sensitive workers, the incidence of positive drug tests attributed to amphetamines also grew by 6%, reaching 0.31% of all drug tests that look for the use of amphetamines among these workers. During 2003, amphetamines positivity was 0.29%.

"The use of amphetamines among workers continued to grow in 2004," said Barry Sample, Ph.D., Director of Science and Technology for the Employer Solutions division of Quest Diagnostics. "However amphetamines use among workers grew at a slower pace, when compared to previous years."

Overall, the drug positivity rate for U.S. workers remained unchanged at 4.5% from 2003. The positivity rate is the number of positive test results compared to the total number of drug tests performed by Quest Diagnostics. Quest Diagnostics performed more than 7.2 million workplace drug tests from January to December 2004.

The Drug Testing Index summarizes the results of workplace drug tests performed by Quest Diagnostics between January and December 2004. The Drug Testing Index examines positivity rates 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.

"As the nation's leading provider of employer drug testing we are pleased to make this important information available to the public," said Surya N. Mohapatra, Ph.D., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Quest Diagnostics. "Since 1988, government, employers and the healthcare industry have relied on the Drug Testing Index to make important fact-based decisions about employees' drug use and its impact in the workplace."

Methamphetamine, the most commonly abused type of amphetamine, is a potent synthetic psychostimulant drug that is used by individuals to increase alertness, relieve fatigue, feel stronger and more decisive.(1) Consequences of methamphetamine use include addiction, psychotic behavior and brain damage,(2) and chronic use can cause violent behavior, anxiety, confusion, insomnia, auditory hallucinations, mood disturbances, delusions and paranoia.(3) Withdrawal symptoms include depression, anxiety, fatigue, paranoia, and intense cravings.(4)

In an effort to address the social ramifications associated with methamphetamine, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) aggressively targets those who traffic in and produce methamphetamine, as well as those who traffic in chemicals utilized to manufacture methamphetamine. During 2004, successful investigation efforts focusing on methamphetamine and precursor chemicals have dismantled and disrupted high-level methamphetamine trafficking organizations, as well as dramatically reduced the amount of pseudoephedrine entering the United States.(5)

During 2004, the drug positivity rate for Federally-mandated, safety-sensitive workers decreased to 2.3% from 2.5% in 2003, while the drug positivity rate for the general U.S. workforce declined to 4.9% from 5.0% in 2003.

Color graphics of the Drug Testing Index, including regional maps which show positivity rates by type of drug, are available online at <http://www.questdiagnostics.com> to provide more localized workplace drug test data.

Quest Diagnostics is the 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 national 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 information technology solutions that help improve patient care. Additional company information is available at: <http://www.questdiagnostics.com>.

The statements in this press release which are not historical facts or information may be forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results and outcomes to be materially different. Certain of these risks and uncertainties may include, but are not limited to, competitive environment, changes in government regulations, changing relationships with customers, payers, suppliers and strategic partners and other factors described in the Quest Diagnostics Incorporated 2004 Form 10-K and subsequent filings.

Annual Positivity Rates
(For Combined U.S. Workforce)
(More than 7.2 million tests from January to December 2004)

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%

Positivity Rates By Testing Category

Testing Category	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Federally-Mandated, Safety-Sensitive Workforce	2.3%	2.5%	2.5%	2.9%	3.1%
General U.S. Workforce	4.9%	5.0%	4.8%	4.9%	4.9%
Combined U.S. Workforce	4.5%	4.5%	4.4%	4.6%	4.7%

Positivity Rates By Testing Reason
(For Federally-Mandated, Safety-Sensitive Workforce)
(More than 1.2 million tests from January to December 2004)

Testing Reason	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Follow-Up	3.3%	3.4%	3.8%	4.3%	4.2%
For Cause	14.1%	13.8%	14.3%	14.4%	14.8%
Periodic	0.51%	0.75%	0.95%	1.1%	1.1%
Post-Accident	2.9%	3.1%	3.3%	3.6%	3.9%
Pre-Employment	2.7%	2.9%	2.9%	3.4%	3.6%
Random	1.8%	1.9%	1.9%	2.2%	2.4%
Returned to Duty	2.9%	2.8%	3.4%	3.5%	3.8%

Positivity Rates By Testing Reason
(For General U.S. Workforce)
(More than 6.0 million tests from January to December 2004)

Testing Reason	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Follow-Up	10.0%	9.6%	10.3%	11.3%	10.8%
For Cause	27.8%	28.2%	25.9%	26.1%	25.7%
Periodic	1.9%	2.2%	2.7%	3.4%	4.4%
Post-Accident	5.7%	5.7%	5.9%	6.0%	5.9%
Pre-Employment	4.1%	4.1%	4.3%	4.4%	4.5%
Random	7.1%	6.6%	6.5%	7.0%	7.7%
Returned to Duty	5.5%	5.6%	5.6%	5.3%	5.3%

Positivity Rates By Drug Category
(For Federally-Mandated, Safety-Sensitive Workforce, as a percentage of all such tests)
(More than 1.2 million tests from January to December 2004)

Drug Category	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Amphetamines	0.31%	0.29%	0.28%	0.29%	0.27%
Cocaine	0.57%	0.59%	0.56%	0.60%	0.64%
Marijuana	1.25%	1.34%	1.44%	1.72%	1.92%
Opiates	0.17%	0.19%	0.19%	0.26%	0.25%
PCP	0.04%	0.04%	0.04%	0.05%	0.06%
Oxidizing Adulterants (incl. Nitrites)	0.02%	0.03%	0.05%	0.05%	0.10%
Substitution	0.06%	0.06%	0.05%	0.02%	0.03%

Positivity Rates By Drug Category
(For General U.S. Workforce, as a percentage of all such tests)
(More than 6.0 million tests from January to December 2004)

Drug Category	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Amphetamines	0.52%	0.49%	0.34%	0.29%	0.25%
Barbiturates	0.27%	0.29%	0.30%	0.34%	0.38%
Benzodiazepines	0.58%	0.60%	0.58%	0.60%	0.55%
Cocaine	0.72%	0.74%	0.71%	0.69%	0.73%
Marijuana	2.88%	2.96%	2.98%	3.17%	3.29%
Methadone	0.21%	0.20%	0.16%	0.13%	0.13%
Opiates	0.32%	0.34%	0.27%	0.29%	0.27%
PCP	0.01%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%
Propoxyphene	0.63%	0.67%	0.73%	0.52%	0.36%
Oxidizing Adulterants (incl. Nitrites)	0.01%	0.02%	0.05%	0.05%	0.10%
Substitution	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%

Positivity Rates By Drug Category
(For Federally-Mandated, Safety-Sensitive Workers, as a Percentage of All
Positives)
(More than 1.2 million tests from January to December 2004)

Drug Category	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Acid/Base	0.32%	0.37%	0.45%	0.32%	0.16%
Amphetamines	12.7%	11.4%	10.8%	9.6%	8.3%
Cocaine	23.2%	22.7%	21.1%	20.0%	19.6%
Marijuana	52.4%	53.6%	56.0%	58.3%	60.2%
Opiates	7.1%	7.4%	7.3%	8.5%	7.8%
Oxidizing Adulterants (incl. Nitrites)	0.42%	0.52%	0.90%	0.82%	1.4%
PCP	1.4%	1.7%	1.5%	1.7%	1.7%
Substituted	2.4%	2.3%	1.9%	0.77%	0.77%

Positivity Rates By Drug Category
(For General U.S. Workforce, as a Percentage of All Positives)
(More than 6.0 million tests from January to December 2004)

Drug Category	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Acid/Base	0.11%	0.16%	0.25%	0.23%	0.07%
Amphetamines	10.0%	9.0%	6.7%	5.5%	4.8%
Barbiturates	2.7%	2.8%	2.9%	3.2%	3.5%
Benzodiazepines	5.0%	5.1%	5.0%	5.0%	4.2%
Cocaine	13.8%	13.8%	13.9%	13.2%	13.9%
Marijuana	55.0%	55.0%	57.7%	60.9%	63.0%
Methadone	1.7%	1.6%	1.2%	0.98%	0.89%

Methaqualone	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Opiates	6.1%	6.3%	5.3%	5.5%	5.2%
Oxidizing Adulterants (incl. Nitrites)	0.05%	0.16%	0.48%	0.51%	0.88%
PCP	0.28%	0.51%	0.47%	0.46%	0.45%
Propoxyphene	4.9%	5.0%	5.6%	4.0%	2.5%
Substituted	0.49%	0.58%	0.54%	0.48%	0.56%

Positivity Rates By Drug Category
(For Combined U.S. Workforce, as a Percentage of All Positives)
(More than 7.2 million tests from January to December 2004)

Drug Category	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Acid/Base	0.13%	0.18%	0.27%	0.24%	0.08%
Amphetamines	10.2%	9.3%	7.1%	5.9%	5.1%
Barbiturates	2.5%	2.5%	2.6%	2.9%	3.2%
Benzodiazepines	4.5%	4.7%	4.5%	4.5%	3.9%
Cocaine	14.7%	14.6%	14.6%	13.9%	14.4%
Marijuana	54.8%	54.9%	57.6%	60.6%	62.8%
Methadone	1.5%	1.4%	1.1%	0.88%	0.82%
Methaqualone	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Opiates	6.2%	6.4%	5.5%	5.8%	5.4%
Oxidizing Adulterants (incl. Nitrites)	0.09%	0.19%	0.52%	0.54%	0.92%
PCP	0.38%	0.61%	0.58%	0.59%	0.56%
Propoxyphene	4.4%	4.5%	5.1%	3.5%	2.3%
Substituted	0.66%	0.73%	0.68%	0.51%	0.58%

- (1) Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and SAMHSA's National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information, Drug Category Profile: Stimulants, <http://ncadi.samhsa.gov/govpubs/rpo926/>
- (2) Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy, Drug Facts: Methamphetamine, May, 2002.
- (3) Ibid.
- (4) Ibid.
- (5) Source: Statement of Joseph T. Rannazzisi, Deputy Chief, Office of the Enforcement Operations Drug Enforcement Administration Before the House of Government Reform Committee, Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources, November 18, 2004

SOURCE Quest Diagnostics Incorporated
-0- 05/16/2005
/CONTACT: Laure Park (Investors), 201-393-5030, or Jennifer Somers (Media), 201-729-8386, both of Quest Diagnostics /
/Web Site: <http://www.questdiagnostics.com>
<http://ncadi.samhsa.gov/govpubs/rpo926/>
(DGX)