2020 Employer Drug Testing Survey

CCG’s fourth annual Employer Survey polled employers across thirty-five different industries, providing insights into substance abuse testing. Survey questions spanned from testing methodologies to current industry issues such as marijuana legalization and the opioid epidemic.

What industry best describes your company?

- Transportation: 14%
- Other: 12%
- Healthcare: 11%
- Government: 10%
- Manufacturing: 9%
- Drug Testing: 9%
- Construction: 8%
- Education: 3%
- Employment Services: 3%
- Energy/Utilities: 3%
- Professional Services: 2.5%
- Retail: 2.5%
- Consulting: 2%
- Defense/Aerospace: 2%
- Non-Profit: 1%
- Staffing: 1%
- Leisure/Hospitality: 1%
- General Business: 1%
- Technology: 0.75%
- Telecommunications: 0.5%
- Finance: 0.32%
- Insurance: 0.32%
- Legal/Law Firm: 0.22%
- Media/Communications: 0.11%

What types of substance abuse testing do you perform in your workplace?

- Pre-employment: 85%
- Random: 73%
- Reasonable Suspicion: 67%
- Post-accident: 64%
- Return-to-duty: 36%
- Follow-up: 28%
- Periodic: 16%
- None: 5%
- Wall-to-Wall/Full Location: 5%
Testing Methodologies and Types

While the overwhelming majority of workplace drug testing is still pre-employment, only 18% of surveyed employers perform only pre-employment drug testing.

What drug testing methods do you use in your workplace?

- Lab-based urine testing: 89%
- Lab-based oral fluid testing: 14%
- Hair testing: 13%
- Instant screening urine: 30%
- Instant screening oral fluid: 8%
- Other: 7%
How concerned are you about safety in the workplace due to legalized marijuana?

- Concerned: 44%
- Slightly concerned: 33%
- Not at all concerned: 23%

Due to legalized marijuana, how concerned are you about the decrease in quality of new-hires/employees in the workplace?

- Concerned: 39%
- Slightly concerned: 38%
- Not at all concerned: 23%

Concern over the decrease in quality of new hires/employees in the workplace dropped from 54% in 2019 to 39% in 2020.

If you are concerned about increased costs in the workplace due to legalized marijuana, what costs do you anticipate increasing?

- Costs due to employee absenteeism: 45%
- Costs due to lost productivity: 50%
- Costs due to workplace accidents/incidents: 61%
- Healthcare costs: 26%
- Hiring costs: 35%
- Legal costs: 33%
- Workers’ compensation: 43%
- Other: 11%

Reasons for removing marijuana from your test panel in the next 12 months.

- We are experiencing delays and/or cannot fill positions due to high marijuana positives: 36%
- Testing for marijuana is not permitted in our state(s) of operation: 33%
- We are concerned about lawsuits/legal liability if we test for marijuana: 42%
- Other: 25%
Prescription Drug Use in the Workplace

How concerned are you about safety in the workplace due to prescription drug use?

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<tr>
<th>Concerned</th>
<th>Slightly concerned</th>
<th>Not at all concerned</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>24%</td>
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Based on your understanding, does your drug testing program identify prescription drug abuse?

- Yes: 47%
- No: 14%
- Don't know: 19%
- Only in limited circumstances: 19%
- Other: 1%

If you are concerned about increased workplace costs due to prescription drug use, what costs do you anticipate increasing?

- Costs due to employee absenteeism: 50%
- Costs due to lost productivity: 53%
- Costs due to workplace accidents/incidents: 67%
- Healthcare costs: 37%
- Hiring costs: 23%
- Legal costs: 27%
- Workers’ compensation: 44%
- Other: 7%

“Other” concerns included the inability to be a DOT driver, the costs of courses and counseling post-positive drug test, and the increased cost of observed testing.
When was the last time you updated your drug testing policy?

- 1–6 Months: 21%
- 6–12 Months: 16%
- 1–3 Years: 28%
- 3+ Years: 16%
- Never: 3%
- Do Not Know: 16%

Employers are confident in the accuracy of their policy for the laws in the state(s) in which they conduct business. 72%

Do you feel that your substance abuse policy and procedures adequately address both prescription drug use and abuse?

- Yes: 72%
- No: 12%

37% of employers are planning on modifying their testing program based on the SAMHSA guidelines/anticipated DOT guidelines.

If you are planning on modifying your testing program based on the recently released lab-based oral fluid guidelines from SAMHSA, or the anticipated guidelines from DOT, which is most likely?

- REPLACE urine testing entirely with oral fluid testing: 3%
- ADD additional specimen types to our current testing program: 15%
- REPLACE urine with oral fluid for DOT testing only: 3%
- ADD oral fluid for DOT testing only: 9%
- NO CHANGES: 62%
- OTHER: 8%
Employers continue to be concerned about workplace safety and understand the vital role workplace drug testing plays. With continued testing for marijuana as well as additional testing for prescription drugs, employers continue to promote workplace safety.