

CAYUGA DRUG & ALCOHOL TESTING

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VEOLATIONS

Violations Are On The Rise: A Closer Look









While there have been many changes to occupational drug and alcohol testing over the last 5 years, one thing has remained constant for almost every employer: background checks for job applicants. Approximately 40 percent of all background checks detect at least one discrepancy in a job applicant's resume.

Employment background checks have a variety of benefits for employers such as reducing workplace violence, increase job applicant quality, avoiding company losses, and negative publicity. Pre-screening applicants helps employers reach long-term success increasing profits for for-profit organizations and greater reach for non-profits. Requiring a background screening discourages people trying to hide serious issues from applying while encouraging people looking for a safe work environment to apply.

The U.S. Department of Justice conducted a study that showed over 1.7 million workdays are lost yearly as the result of workplace violence. Those lost workdays

translated to over \$50 million in lost wages each year, not including the costs involved such as loss of productivity, legal expense, public image issues and more. Businesses can be held responsible for knowing or not knowing details about their staff which can result in being sued for negligent hiring. Employers are obligated to provide their staff with a safe working environment and knowing about whether a potential employee has serious problems on their records such as reckless behavior, substance abuse, theft, or violent behavior beforehand can help determine whether they would prove to be a liability.

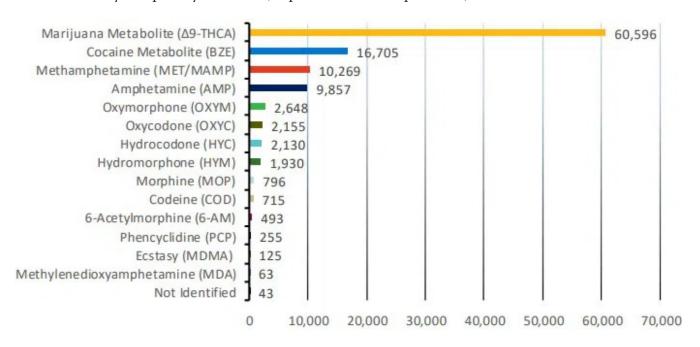
Background checks help eliminate job applicants from the hiring pool that will increase workplace violence, reduce losses linked to fraud and dishonesty, increase employee quality, and avoid negligent hiring lawsuits. Providers such as Cayuga Drug and Alcohol Testing offer businesses a variety of background screening options that allow businesses to hire more suitable candidates. For more information on our background screening options you can contact us at (315) 282-7933.



Violations Are On The Rise

Truck driver drug violations have increased 10.2 percent in 2021 according to information compiled from the FMCSA's (Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration) Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse. Officials know that violations are severely under reported. The number of actual positive tests only increased 3.1 percent, but a break down on the 15 drug categories in the Clearinghouse revealed that positives for cocaine and marijuana increased 10.4 percent and 5.3 percent in 2021. MDA, a manmade hallucinogen, increased from 30 positives to 33 in 2022. Alcohol violations also increased 26.7 percent.

Data from the FMCSA show that marijuana has been the most prevalent drug used in the trucking industry. A study released in January found that the clearinghouse may be underreporting cocaine use because hair test results are not currently accepted by the DOT (Department of Transportation) for commercial drivers.



POSITIVE DRUG TESTS REPORTED INTO FMCSA'S CLEARINGHOUSE SINCE JAN 6,2020, AS OF JAN 1, 2022. SOURCE: FMCSA

Officials such as acting FMCSA chief Robin Hutchinson have been fighting to get hair test results to be accepted for reporting purposes in the clearinghouse. Historically, hair follicle drug screenings have been a reliable method for determining habitual use of substances and are reliable when testing for certain substances that typically won't be present in a urine drug screening after a certain period.

The DOT has been actively working on oral-fluid, or saliva, drug screening protocols as an alternative to urine screenings for situations such as shy bladder or an attempt to adulterate a specimen. Currently, the DOT has no plans to implement hair screenings and has not yet released any new information as to when oral-fluid drug screenings will be accepted.



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Brian Muldrow is the President of Cayuga Drug and Alcohol Testing. Brian is a member of many boards in the community and is also a proud advocate for social justice.



Kiersten Seneca is the Field Manager and a certified trainer for Cayuga Drug and Alcohol Testing. She oversees the basic operations of the company, social media, and our podcast.