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## HAWAII, ARKANSAS AND OKLAHOMA LEAD THE NATION FOR METHAMPHETAMINE USE IN THE WORKFORCE REVEALS QUEST DIAGNOSTICS DRUG TESTING INDEX

*Five-year data suggest methamphetamine's national decline has halted and that the drug's stronghold*

*may be moving eastward*

Quest Diagnostics Incorporated, the world's leading provider of diagnostic testing, information and services, issued its annual report September 2, 2011 on U.S. worker drug use, the Quest Diagnostics Drug Testing Index™.

The study includes its first state-by-state analysis of methamphetamine positives, based on more than 4.5 million urine specimens collected from the general U.S. workforce from January-December 2010, revealing that several Western and Midwestern states register dramatically higher workforce positive prevalence rates for methamphetamine than the national average. The report also shows that while efforts around the country to control availability of the highly addictive sub-

stance and educate against its use may be making progress in some areas, the drug's attraction among U.S. workers may be moving eastward.

Among the 42 states with sufficient data to compare to the national average for positive workplace drugs tests for methamphetamine in 2010, those notably above were:

- **Hawaii – 410% greater than the national average**
- **Arkansas – 280% greater than the national average**
- **Oklahoma – 240% greater than the national average**
- **Nevada – 180% greater than the national average**
- **California – 140% greater than the national average**
- **Wyoming – 130% greater than the national average**
- **Utah – 120% greater than the national average**
- **Arizona – 100% greater than the national average**
- **Kansas – 80% greater than the national average**

“While the western half of our country consistently struggles with dramatically higher methamphetamine positives than the nation as a whole, the American workforce overall faces a continued national challenge, and our data suggest that methamphetamine's stronghold may be moving eastward into the Midwest and South,” said Dr. Barry Sample, Director of Science and Technology for Quest Diagnostics Employer Solutions. “In 2010 alone, thousands of U.S. workers tested positive for this highly addictive substance that can affect behavior and judgment, and quickly change the course of a life.”

While overall positivity for methamphetamine use in the U.S. general workforce dropped dramatically from 0.18% in 2006 to 0.11% in 2008, the decline in the drug's use appears to have halted thereafter, with a 0.10% positivity rate in both 2009 and 2010.

\*Source: Quest Diagnostics

## DRUG TESTING WELFARE RECIPIENTS

Legislation to repeal drug testing for welfare recipients faces an uphill battle. 71 percent of Florida voters support the tests, according to a new poll. Support is at 90 percent among Republicans and at about 50 percent for Democrats. As Whitney Ray tells us, Republican lawmakers are vowing to crush the repeal bill, even though the tests have excluded just a few welfare recipients. The program is expected to cost the state about three million dollars a year. Part of that cost was supposed to be offset by kicking drug users out of the cash assistance program, but at this point it's unclear if money will be saved.

Close to a hundred thousand Floridians, many of them kids, receive cash assistance through a state welfare program. The average pay out is 240 dollars a month and state

lawmakers want to make sure none of that money is used to buy drugs.

A new law mandating drug tests for welfare recipients went into effect July 1st, after many lawmakers claimed there might be a drug problem in the welfare system.

But there is no evidence welfare recipients are prone to use drugs at a higher rate than the general public and in fact, an early sample of the drug testing program showed only about two and half percent tested positive."

Republican Senator Don Gaetz calls those statistics into question. He believes the tests are keeping drug users from even applying for the cash assistance program.

"Maybe this is having the affect that we had expected

and that is that people who are using drugs, are using drugs aren't coming forward," said Gaetz.

Senator Arthenia Joyner, a Democrat, disagrees. She sees the tests as invasive and a waste of taxpayer money. So she's trying to end them.

"The general population is at eight percent drug use. We are talking about two percent among welfare recipients. I think that the entire thing is ill founded," said Joyner.

Joyner's up against a Republican controlled legislature.

"In terms of public opinion the prospects for appeal on that measure are probably not good," said Brown.

\*Source: Capital News Service: [www.flanews.com](http://www.flanews.com)

## USE OF 2000 CCF EXTENDED THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2011

The Federal Custody and Control Form (CCF), OMB control no. 0930-0158, required under the HHS Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs (Mandatory Guidelines) was revised in conjunction with revisions to the Mandatory Guidelines effective October 1, 2010. The use of the previous version of the Federal Custody and Control Form (released August 2000) was permitted for one additional year, through September 30, 2011, to allow for depletion of existing supplies.

With the approach of this deadline, HHS has been notified that large numbers of the 2000 Federal Custody and Control Form still exist. Therefore, HHS is extending the period for continued use of the 2000 Federal CCF until the form's OMB-approved expiration date of November 30, 2011.

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