

# THE IMPACT OF DRUG TESTING PROGRAMS ON WORKPLACE SAFETY & PRODUCTIVITY



Current research shows that drug testing programs help create safer workplaces, reduce risk, and improve organizational performance.

## SAFER WORKPLACES



**3.6x**

Employees with substance use disorders are up to **3.6 times more likely** to be involved in workplace injuries.<sup>1</sup>



**70%**

of individuals with substance use disorders are employed.<sup>2</sup>



**\$81B+**

Substance misuse costs U.S. employers more than \$81 billion annually in lost productivity.<sup>3</sup>

Source: <sup>1</sup> National Safety Council (2023) <sup>2</sup> SAMHSA (2023) <sup>3</sup> NSC (2024)

## MORE PRODUCTIVE TEAMS



**Highest in 20+ years**

Drug test positivity rates in the U.S. workforce have reached their highest levels in more than two decades.<sup>4</sup>



**1 in 25**

job candidates test positive for drugs in pre-employment screenings.<sup>5</sup>



**15–22%**

Workplace drug testing programs are associated with approximately 15–22% lower injury rates, though results vary by industry and workforce.<sup>6</sup>

Source: <sup>4</sup> Quest Diagnostics (2023) <sup>5</sup> Quest Diagnostics (2023) <sup>6</sup> Sheehan et al., J Safety Res. (2020)



Investing in a drug testing program is an investment in your **people**, your **productivity**, and your **bottom line**.

<sup>1</sup> National Safety Council. (2023). Drugs at Work: The Scope of Substance Use in the Workplace. [nsc.org/workplace/safety-topics/impairment/drugs-at-work](https://nsc.org/workplace/safety-topics/impairment/drugs-at-work)

<sup>2</sup> SAMHSA. (2023). Key Substance Use and Mental Health Indicators in the United States: Results from the 2023 NSDUH. [samhsa.gov/data/](https://samhsa.gov/data/)

<sup>3</sup> National Safety Council. (2024). The Economic Burden of Substance Use in the Workplace. [nsc.org/workplace/safety-topics/impairment/employer-resources](https://nsc.org/workplace/safety-topics/impairment/employer-resources)

<sup>4</sup> Quest Diagnostics. (2023). Drug Testing Index: 2023 Annual Report. [questdiagnostics.com/business-solutions/employers/drug-screening/drug-testing-index](https://questdiagnostics.com/business-solutions/employers/drug-screening/drug-testing-index)

<sup>5</sup> Quest Diagnostics. (2023). Drug Testing Index: 2023 Annual Report. [questdiagnostics.com/business-solutions/employers/drug-screening/drug-testing-index](https://questdiagnostics.com/business-solutions/employers/drug-screening/drug-testing-index)

<sup>6</sup> Sheehan, M., & DuMouchel, W. (2020). The effectiveness of workplace drug testing: A meta-analysis update. *Journal of Safety Research*, 73, 257–269. [doi.org/10.1016/j.jsr.2020.05.006](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsr.2020.05.006)