Federal Workplace Drug Testing Program

NLCP Drug Testing Results

Presented by

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Division of Workplace Programs

Drug Testing Advisory Board (DTAB) Meeting

December 5, 2023

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Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

NLCP Contract

- National Laboratory Certification Program (NLCP)

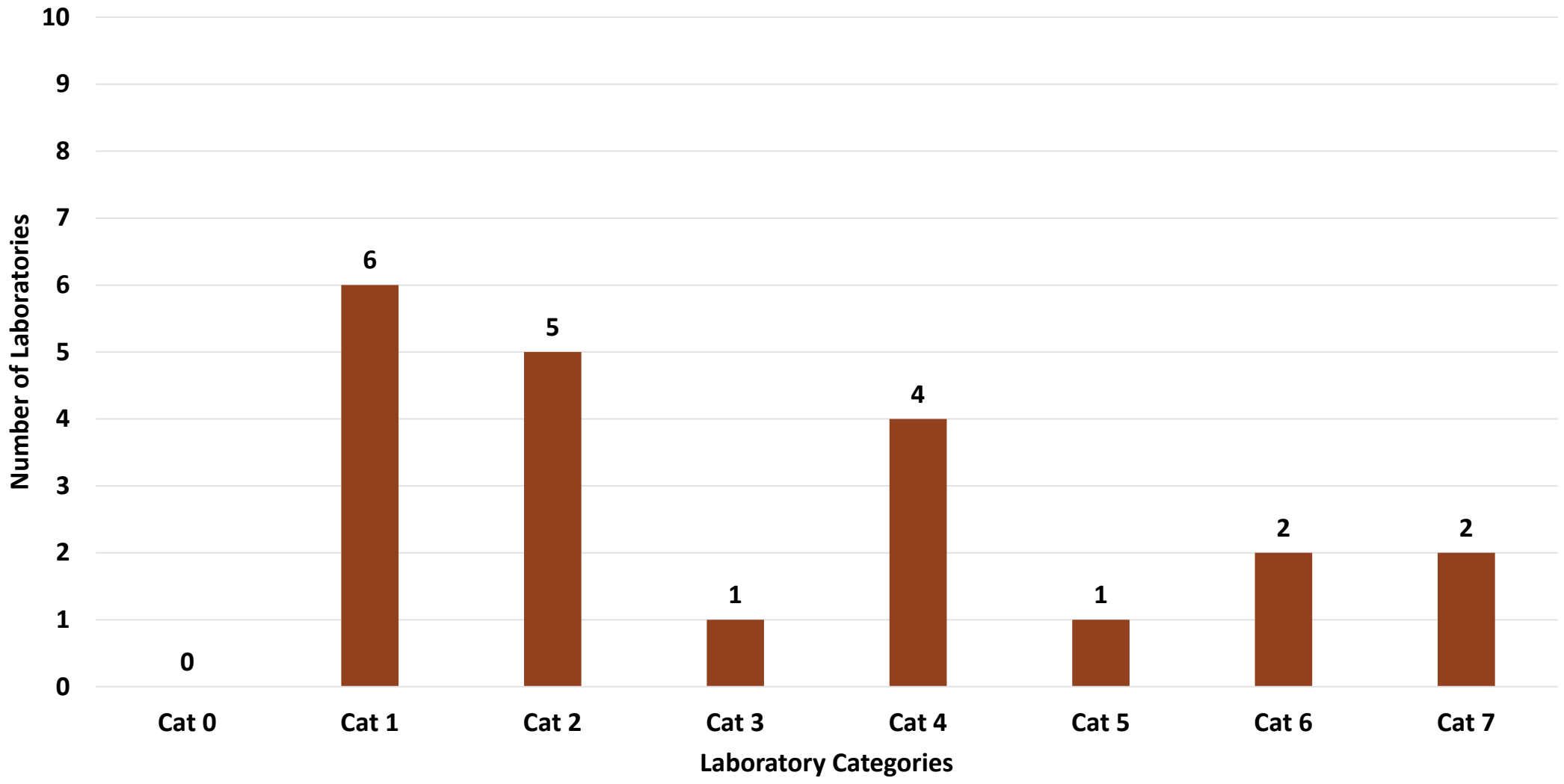
- RTI International

  3040 Cornwallis Road P.O. Box 12194

  Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

- Option Year 1 9/2023 to 9/2024 *(plus 2 option years remaining)*

NLCP Laboratory Distribution: December 2023



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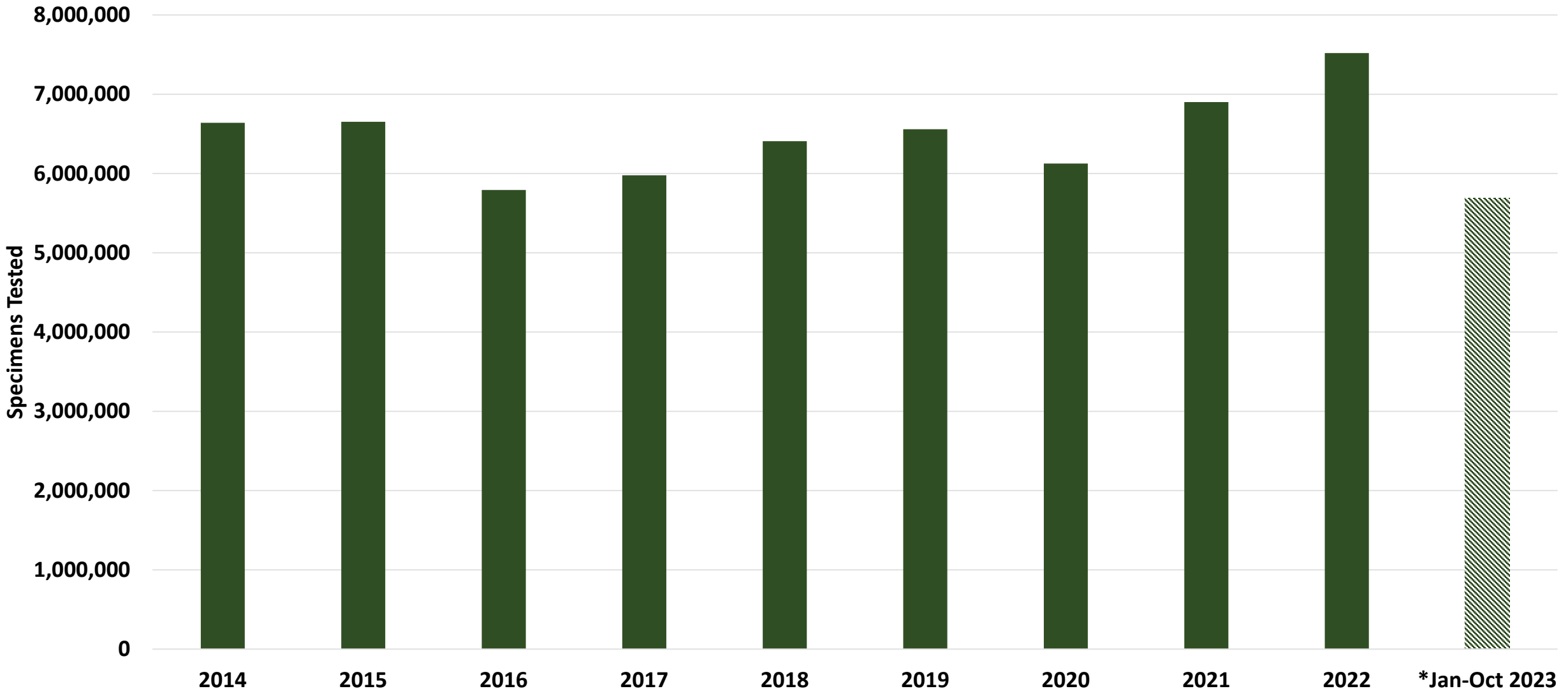
Regulated Specimens Tested
2014 through 2023*



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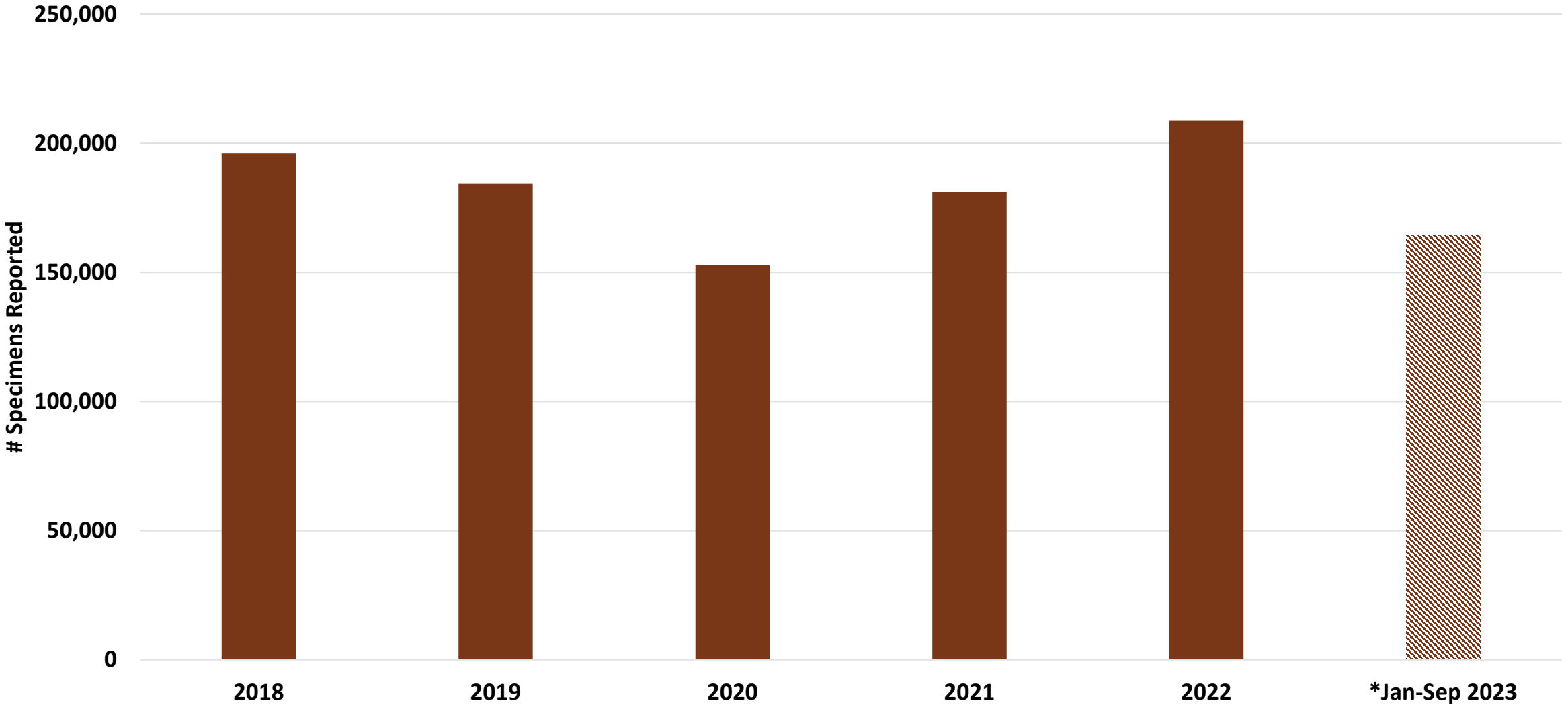
Regulated Specimens Reported as Positive, Adulterated, Invalid or Substituted 2018 through 2023*



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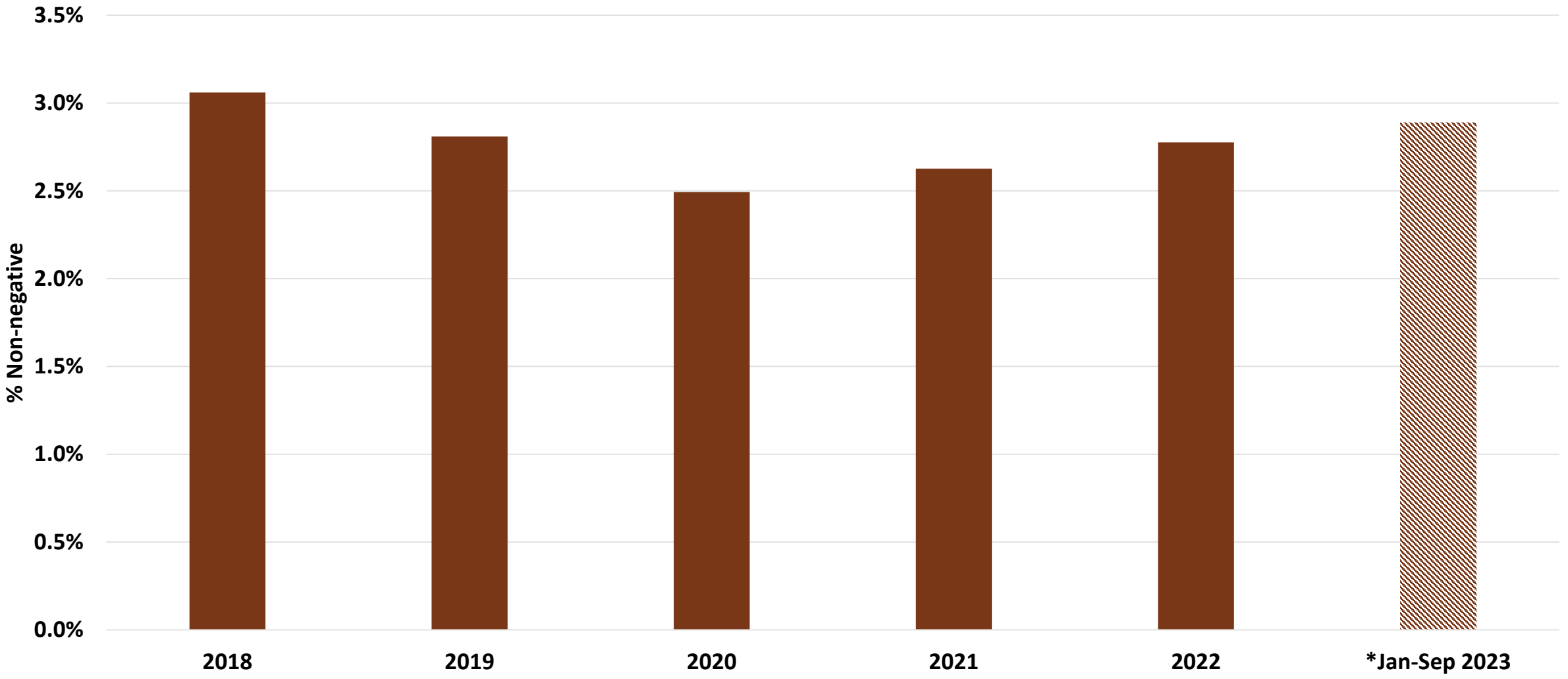
Percentage of Regulated Specimens Reported as Positive, Adulterated, Invalid or Substituted 2018 through 2023*



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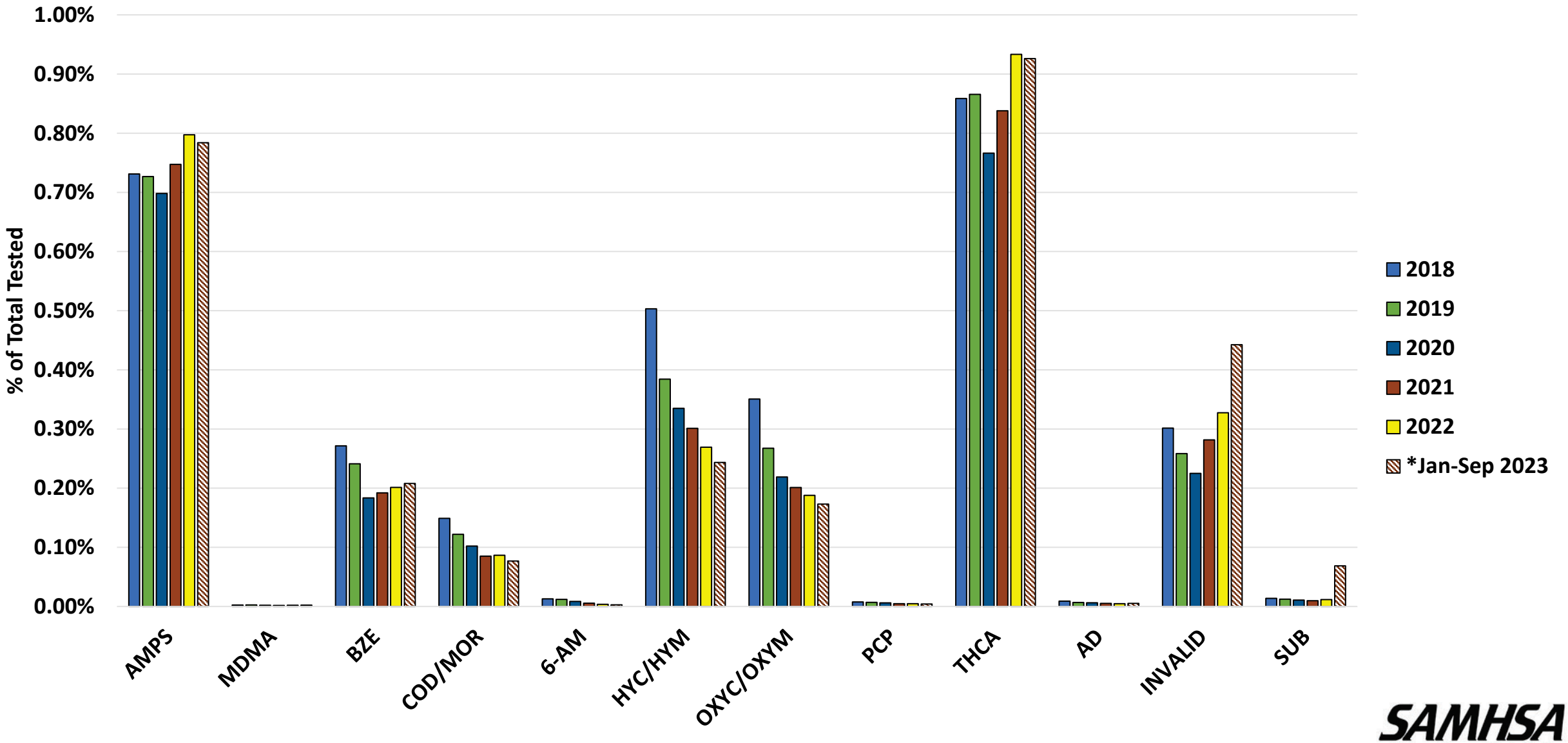
Distribution of Specimens Reported as Drug Positive, Adulterated, Invalid or Substituted 2018 through 2023*



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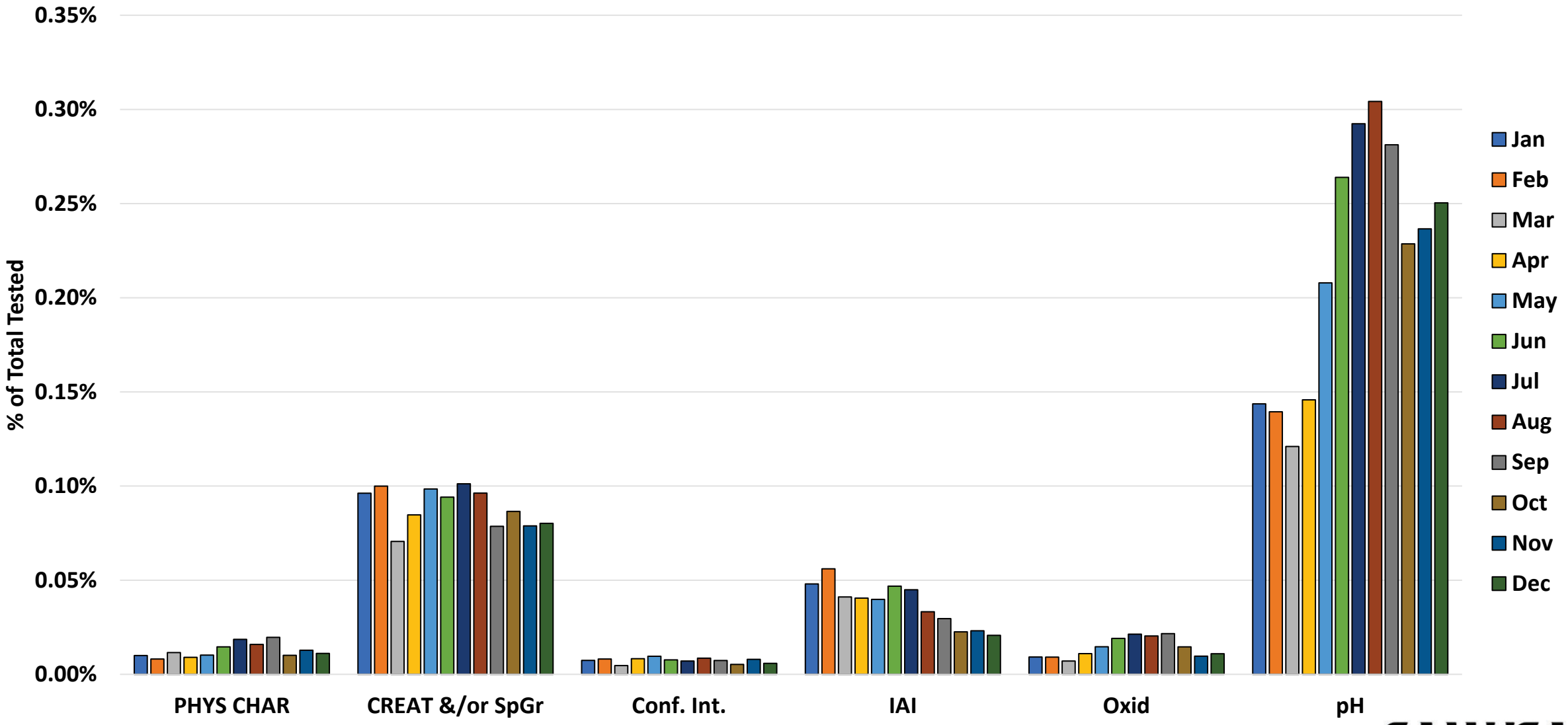
2022 Percent of Specimens Reported Invalid by Category



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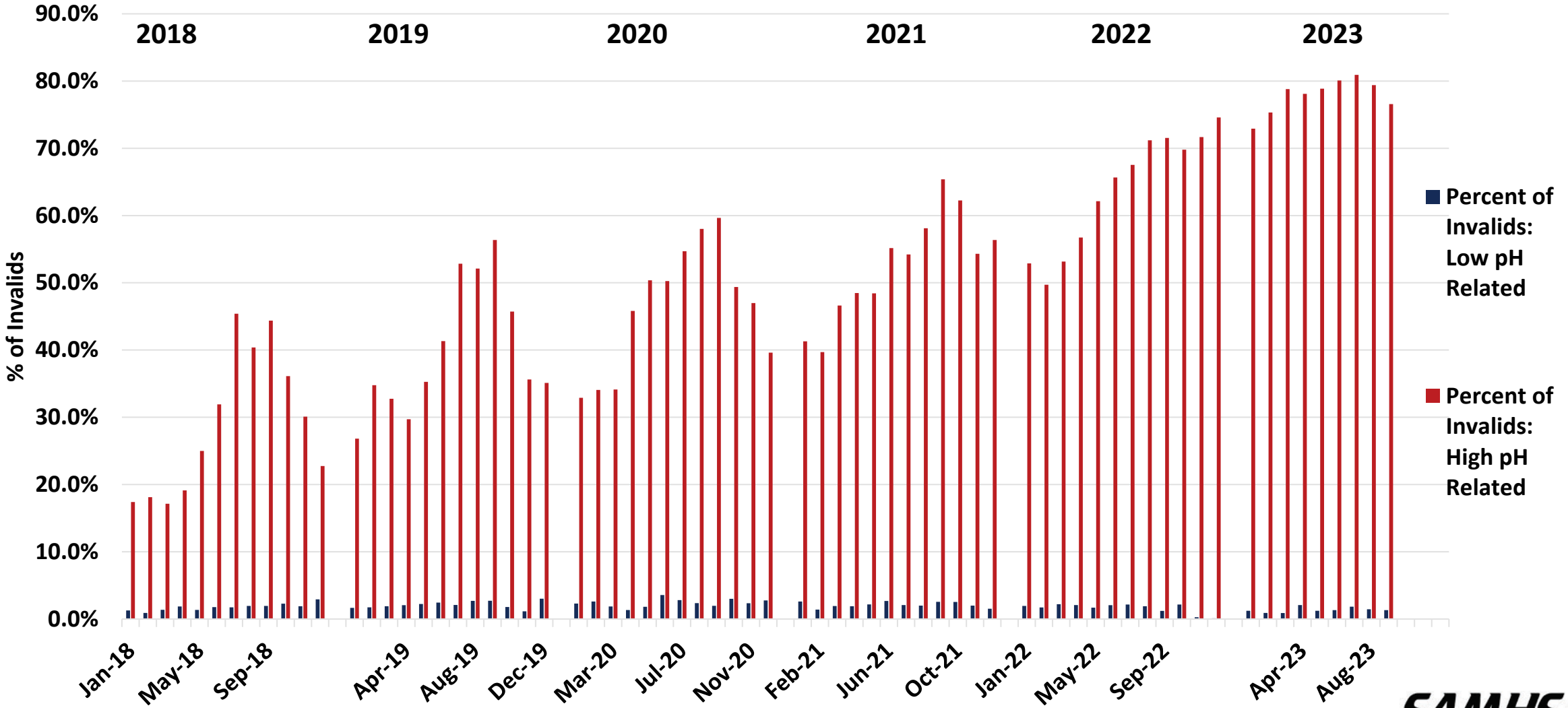
Specimens Reported Invalid for pH 2018 through 2023*



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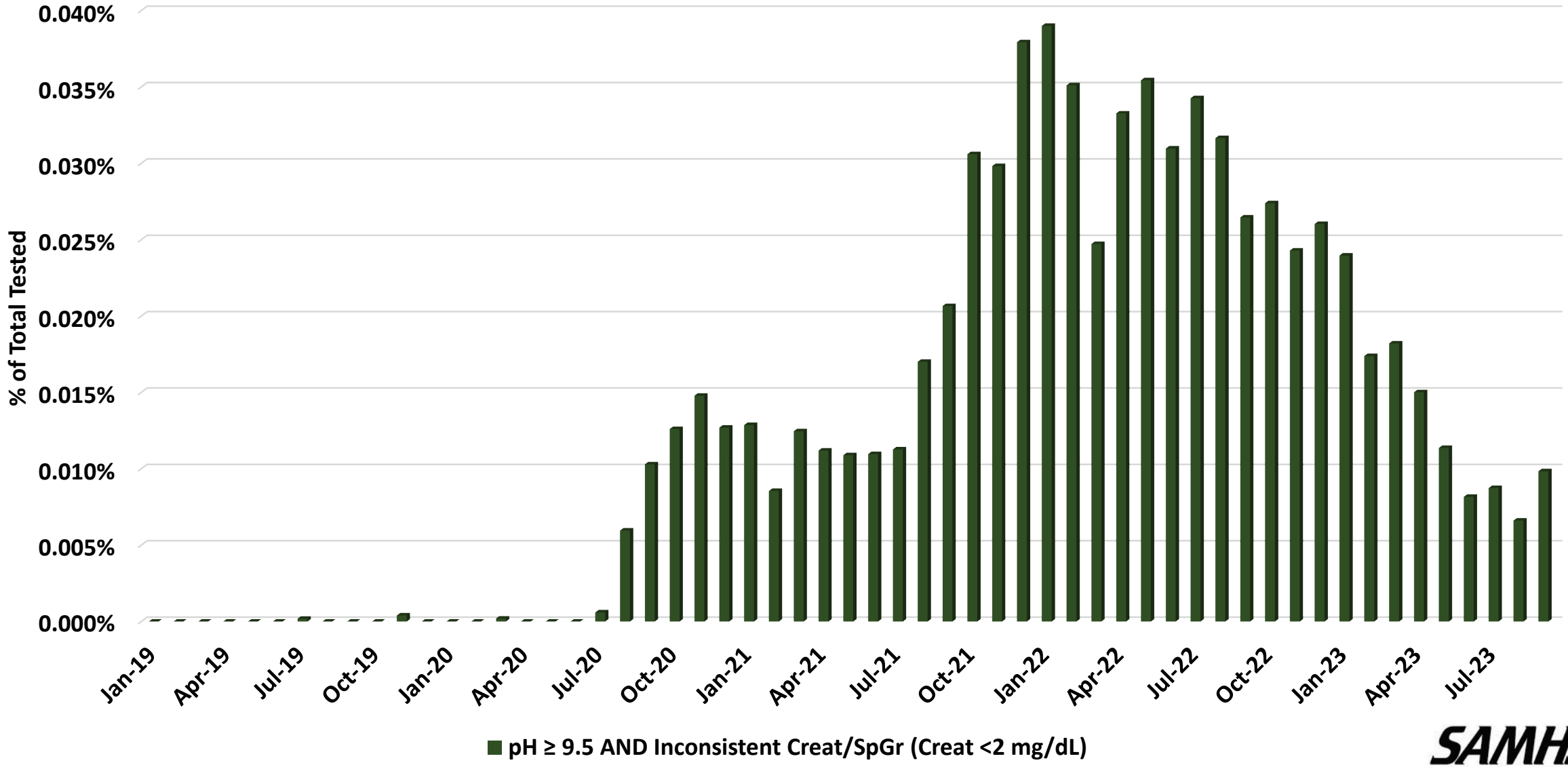
Specimens Reported Invalid for pH ≥ 9.5 AND Inconsistent Creatinine and Specific Gravity



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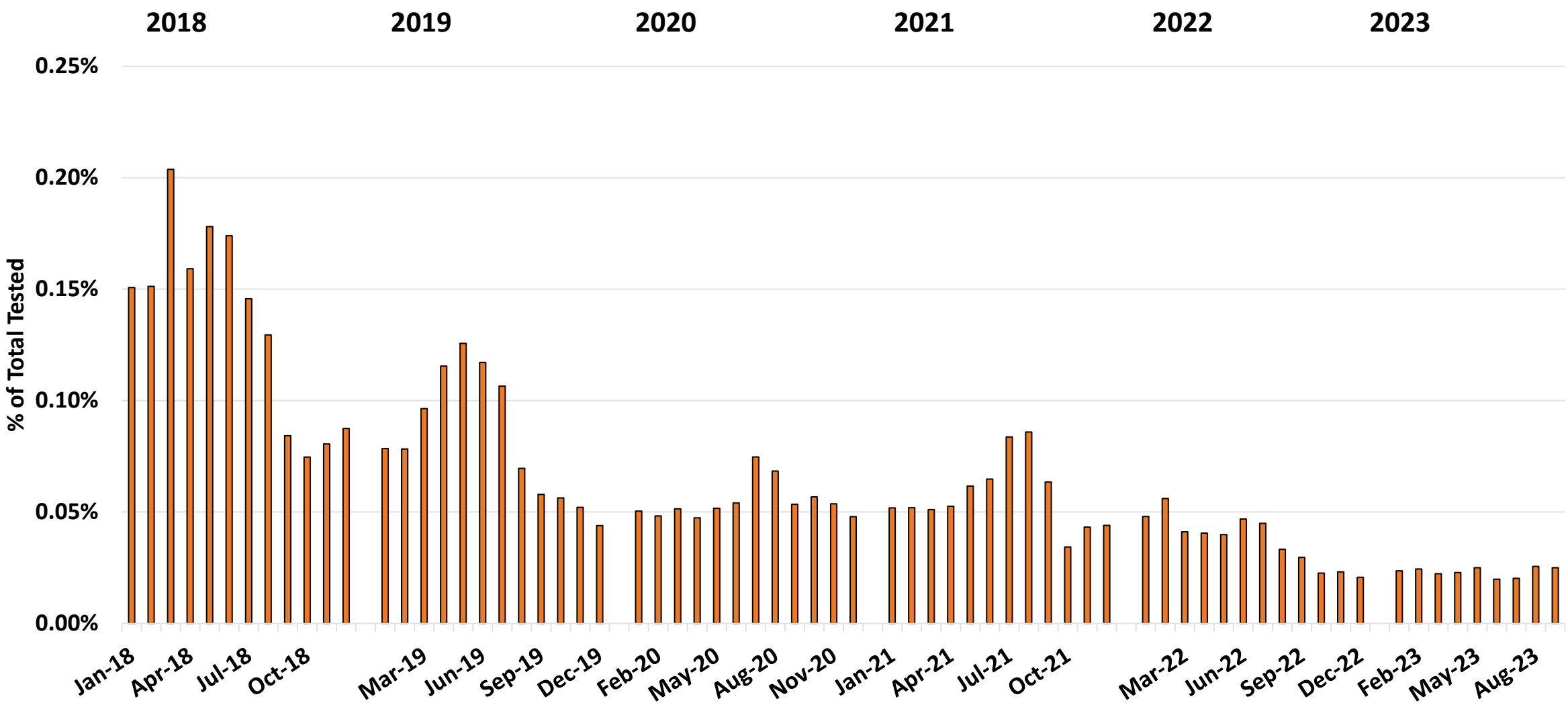
Specimens Reported Invalid Due to Immunoassay Interference: 2018-2023*



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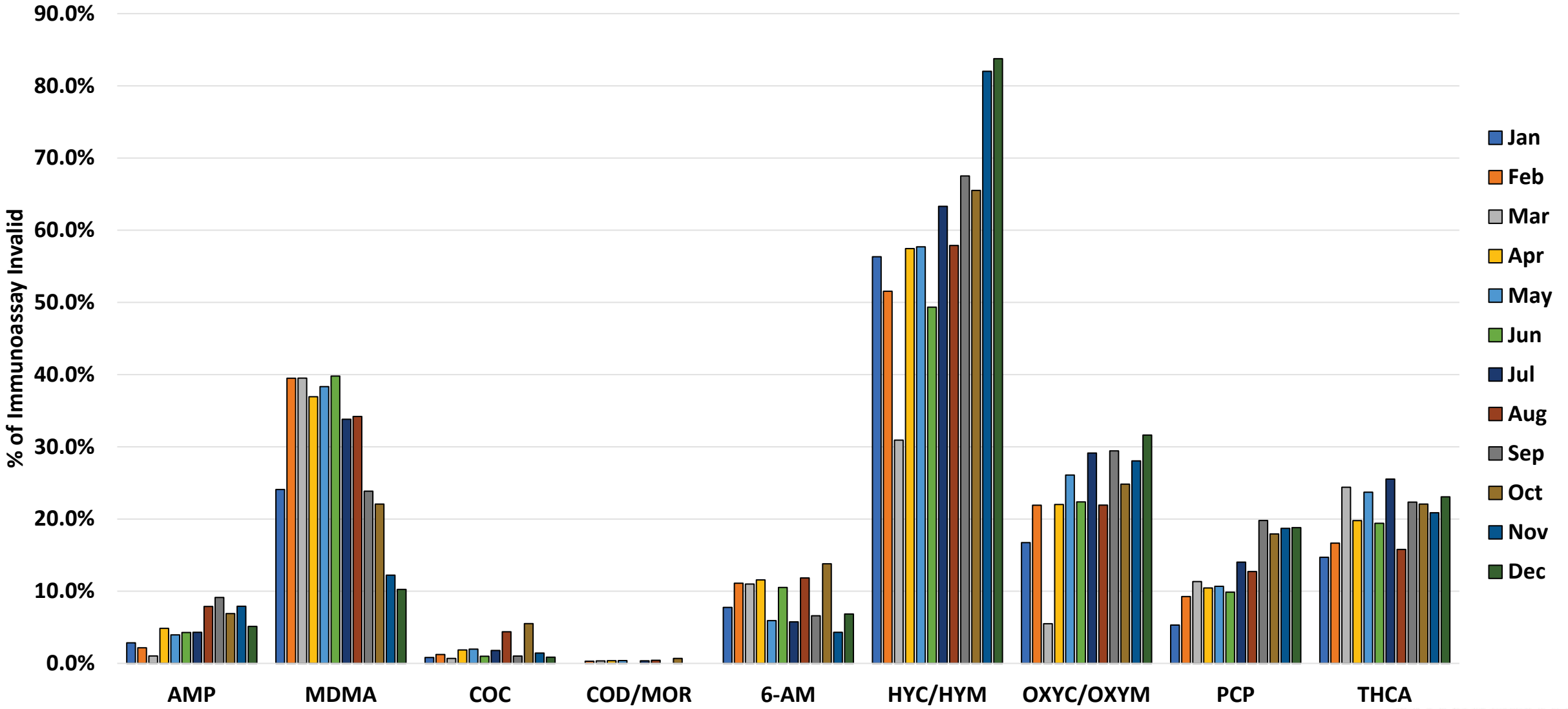
Specimens Reported Invalid Due to Immunoassay Interference by Immunoassay Category 2022



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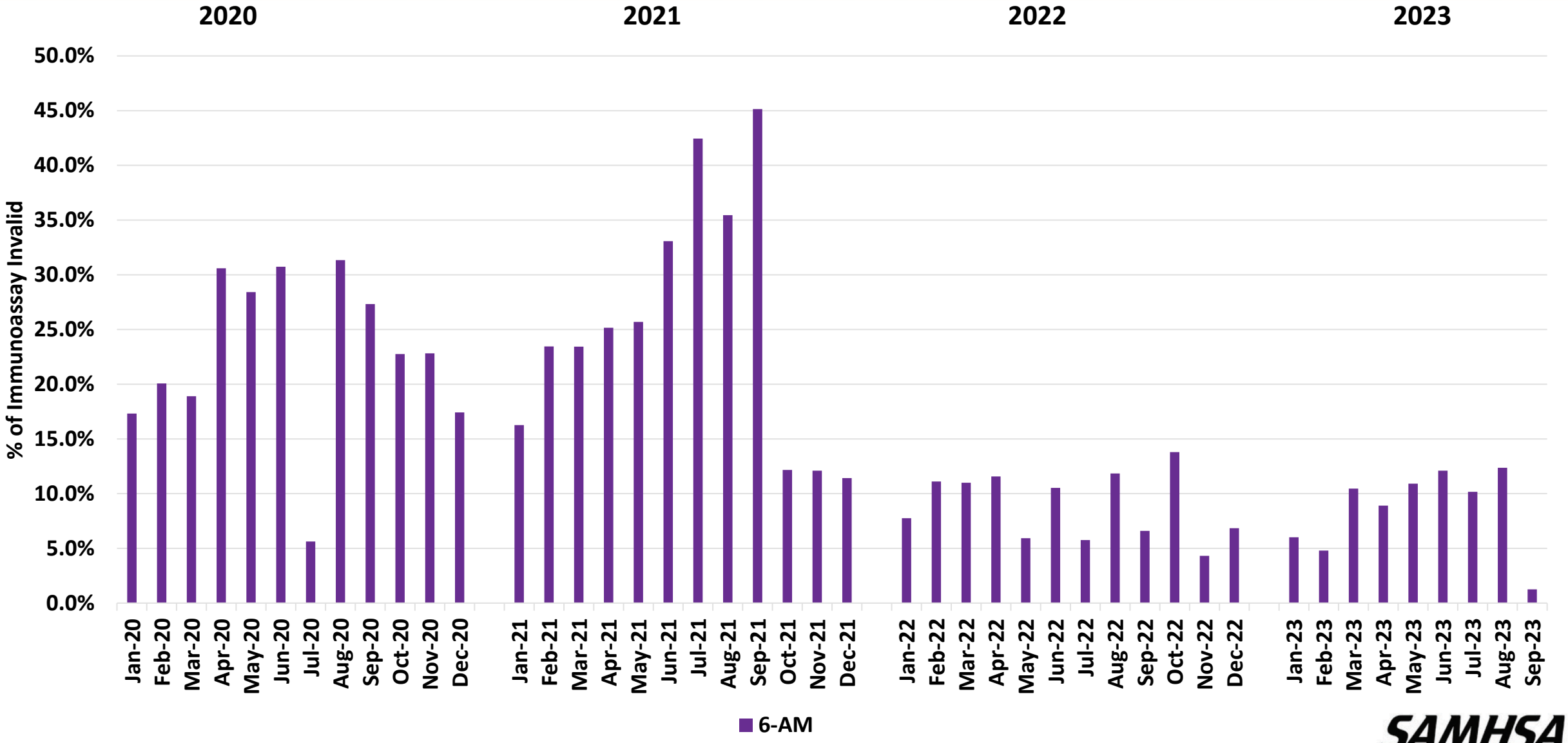
Specimens Reported Invalid Due to Immunoassay Interference by Immunoassay: 6-AM



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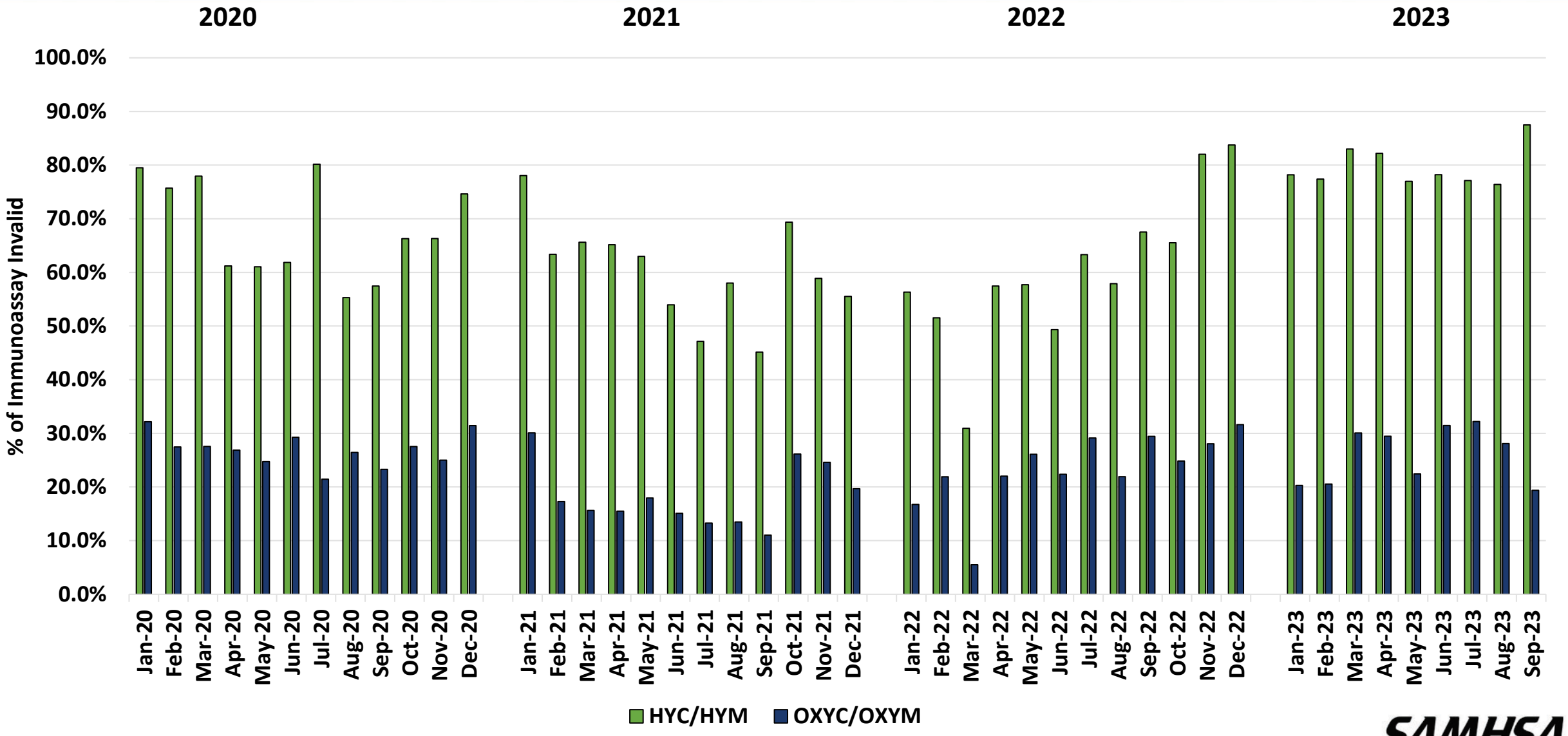
Specimens Reported Invalid Due to Immunoassay Interference by Immunoassay: HYC/HYM & OXYC/OXYM



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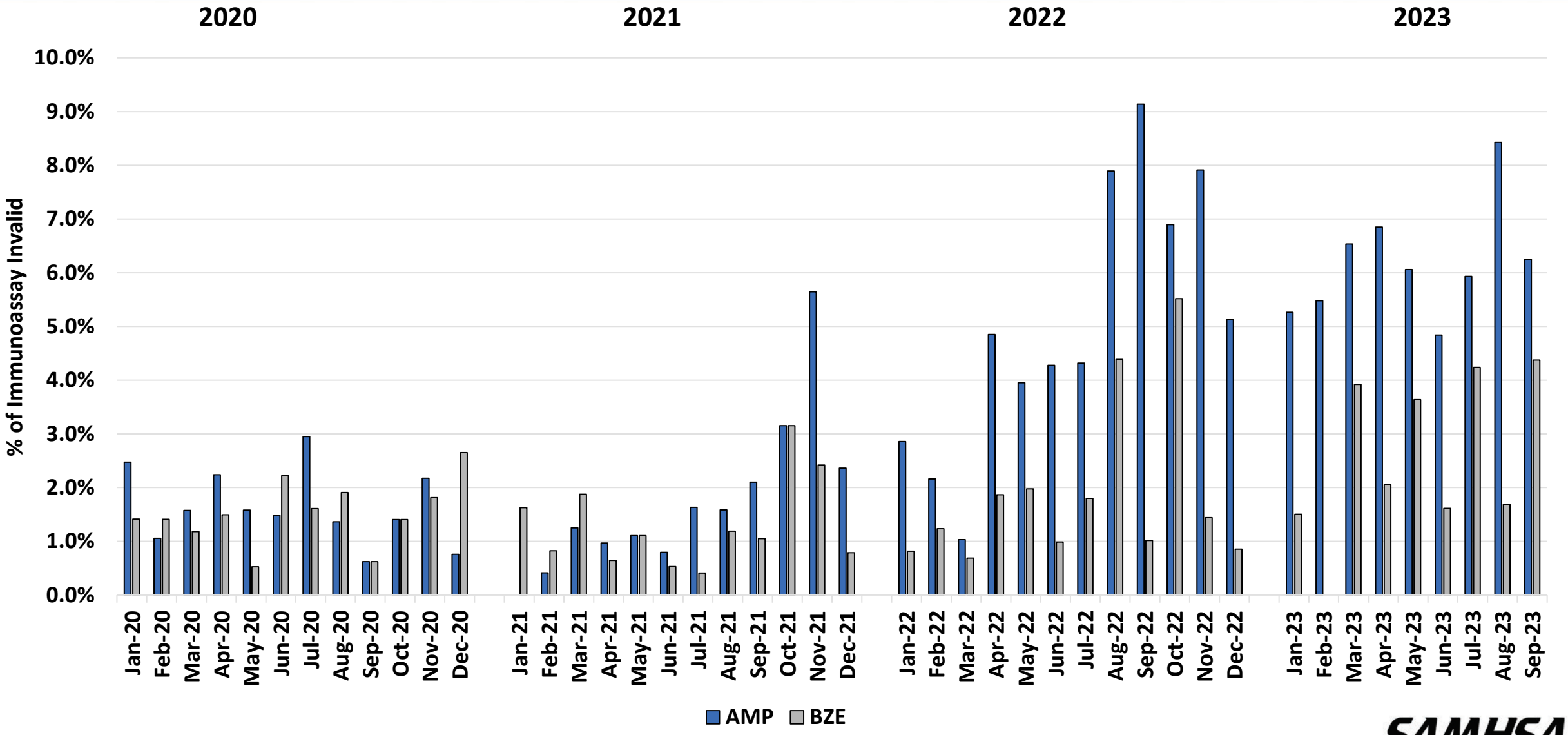
Specimens Reported Invalid Due to Immunoassay Interference by Immunoassay: AMP & BZE



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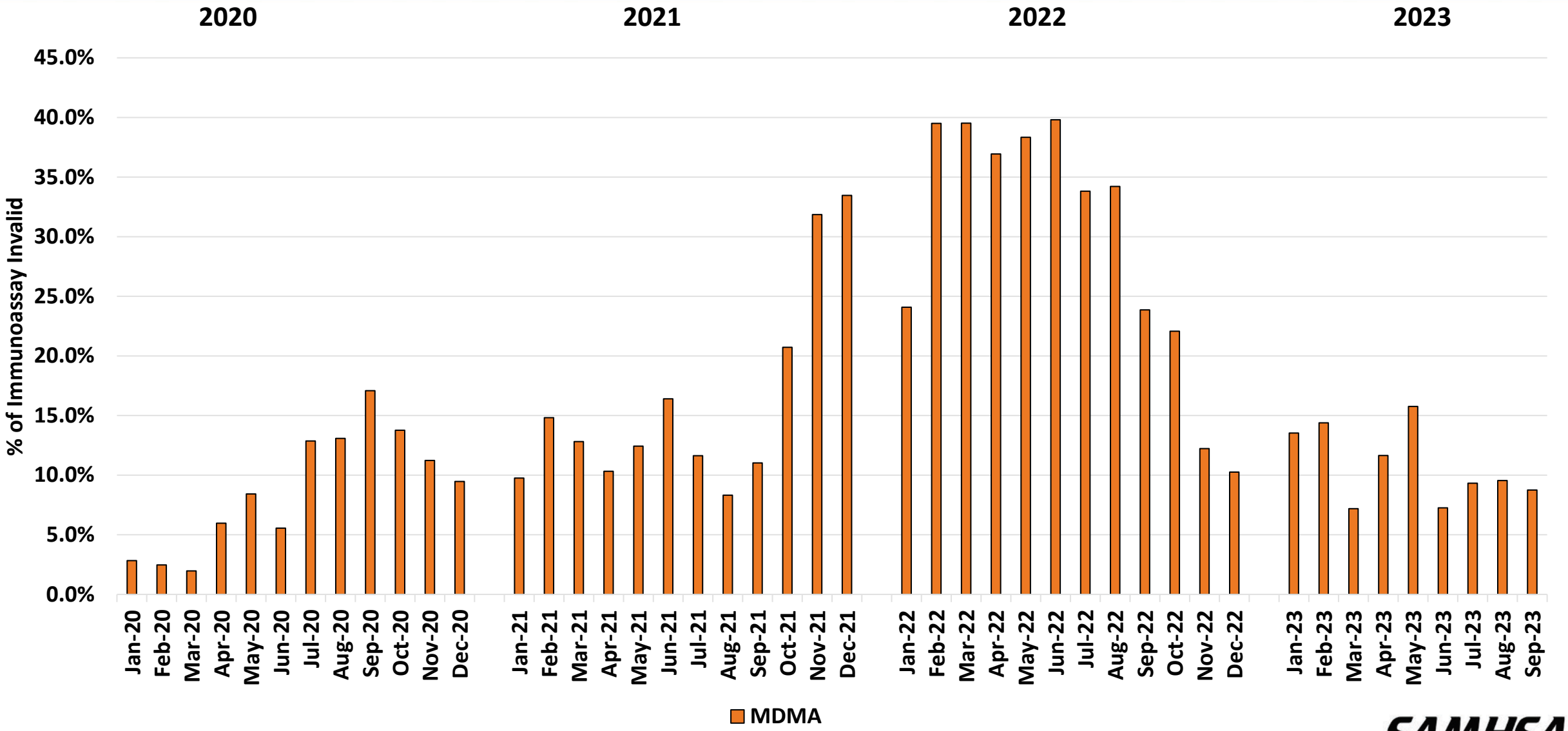
Specimens Reported Invalid Due to Immunoassay Interference by Immunoassay: MDMA



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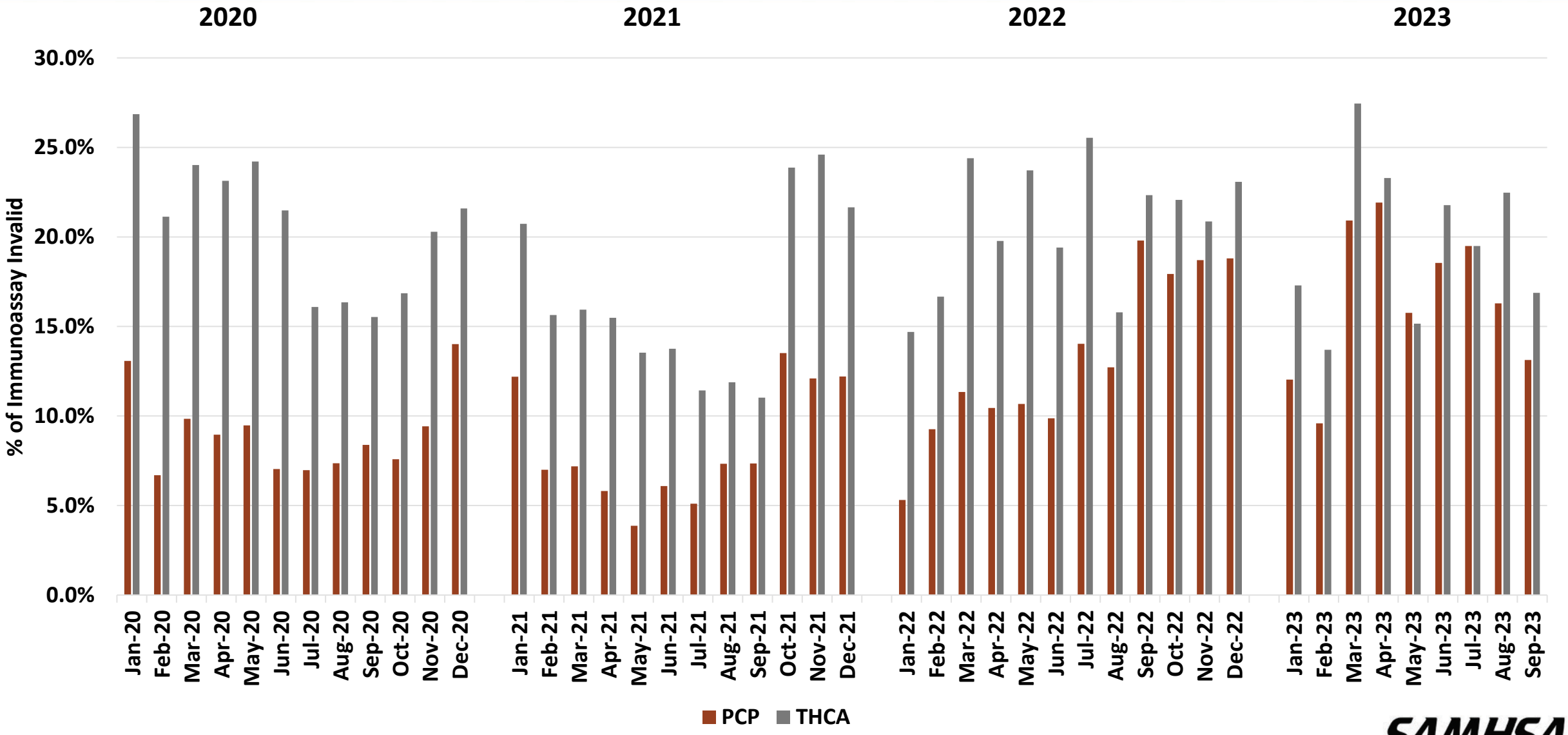
Specimens Reported Invalid Due to Immunoassay Interference by Immunoassay: PCP & THCA



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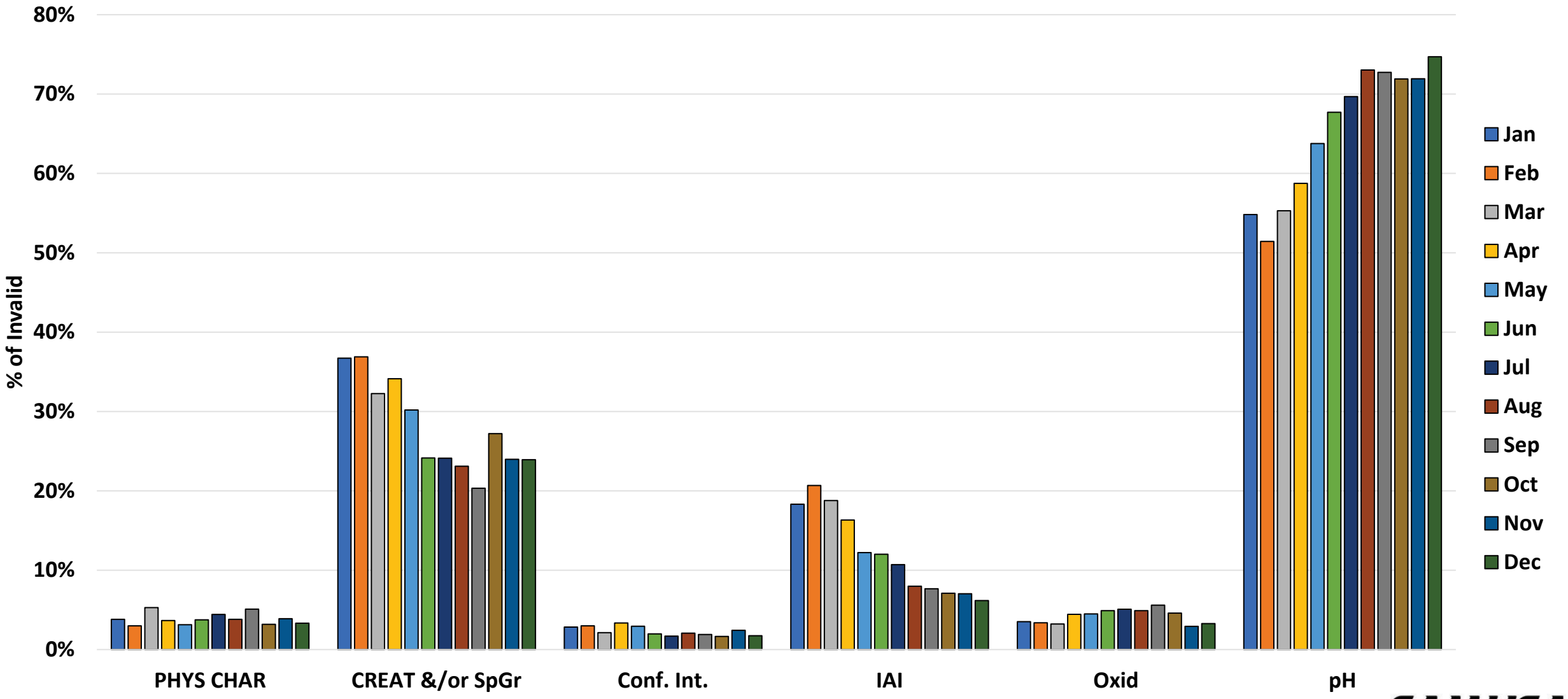
Specimens Reported Invalid by Category: 2022



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Drug Testing Matters

Drug Testing Matters is a continuing education newsletter by the National Laboratory Certification Program (NLCP) on topics of interest to laboratories, laboratory staff, and inspectors. Laboratories may use these short sessions as part of their internal staff training programs.

Two series on Opioids (9)

DL-MAMP Series (2)

Validation Series (5)

Drug Testing in Urine, Oral Fluid and Hair Series (3)

Various Article of Interest (8)

View the archive and register for a free email subscription to Drug Testing Matters at https://www.forensicrti.org/nlcp/drug-testing-matters

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Summary

- The number of regulated specimens tested in 2022 was 17.4% more than 2018. The yearly percent differences ranged from -6.6 to 12.7%.

- The percent of regulated specimens reported as Positive, Adulterated, Invalid and/or Substituted decreased by 9.3% since 2018. The yearly percent differences ranged from -11.2 to 34.0%.

Summary (continued)

- **Specimens reported as Invalid due to low pH decreased from the levels seen prior to revisions to URMG, effective October 2017.**

- **Specimens reported as Invalid due to high pH continue to increase.**

- **Specimens reported as Invalid due to Immunoassay interference continued to decrease from highs experienced in late 2017 and 2018.**

Positivity Rates 2018-2023*

Period	DRUG	AD	INVALID	SUB	Combined Rate
2018	2.86%	0.01%	0.30%	0.01%	3.19%
2019	2.63%	0.01%	0.26%	0.01%	2.90%
2020	2.32%	0.01%	0.22%	0.01%	2.56%
2021	2.37%	0.01%	0.28%	0.01%	2.67%
2022	2.48%	0.00%	0.33%	0.01%	2.83%
*Jan-Sep 2023	2.42%	0.01%	0.44%	0.07%	2.93%

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Tackling Issues Impacting NLCP

- Diminished junior toxicologist knowledge of the Federal program
- Uniform Inspector Education, Transfer of Knowledge, and Application of Inspection Criteria
- Non-agile Federal Drug Testing Panel
- Detecting Adulterated or Substituted Urine Specimens
- Zero Oral Fluid Laboratory Applicants
- Cannabis rescheduling

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Applied Study Agenda

Our goals and objectives, for the study agenda, are to:

1. Identify and prioritize the most pressing study questions related to drugs of interest and their impact on public safety.
2. Develop and implement a robust study program that leverages cutting-edge technology and innovative methodologies to answer these questions through both human subject studies and non-human studies.
3. Collaborate with civilian and federal government entities to share information, expertise, and resources, and to ensure that study findings are integrated into policy and practice.
4. Conduct ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the Institute's study program to assess its impact, identify areas for improvement, and ensure that studies are aligned with the needs of stakeholders.
5. Disseminate study findings and best practices to a wide range of stakeholders, including policy-makers, practitioners, and the public, to promote the effective use of study evidence in decision-making. The Institute will also maintain a plan to outline all study questions already answered, current study questions, and future study questions, as well as implications from all studies already completed. This plan will be updated regularly to reflect the latest study findings and developments in the field.

Applied Study Agenda (continued)

- CBD in Acidic Foods
- THC-CBD &Fentanyl Pulse Studies
- CBD Oral Dosing
- Hair Color Impact
- Hair PT Development

Laboratory Support

- Gap Analysis For New Laboratories
- Electronic Custody and Control Form
  - Identified Problem: Laboratory Access to Available Systems
    - Action Item 1: Query Laboratories
    - Action Item 2: Query ECCF providers
    - Action Item 3: Research ECCF Product Solutions

Thank you

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