

Opioids & pH {UPDATE}

Drug Testing Advisory Board Meeting

December 4-5, 2018

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Mandatory Guidelines

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published the following Notice in the January 23, 2017 Federal Register:

Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs using Urine (UrMG)

Effective October 1, 2017

The Revised Mandatory Guidelines

- Expanded the drug testing profile to include new drug analytes: oxycodone, oxymorphone, hydrocodone, and hydromorphone
- Removed MDEA from the drug testing profile, added MDA as an initial test analyte,
- Raised the lower pH cutoff from 3 to 4 for identifying specimens as adulterated, and
- Revised MRO requalification requirements

Implementation – October 1, 2017

- **Revised** pH cutoff for federal agency specimens & DOT-regulated specimens
- **Discontinued** testing federal agency specimens for MDEA
- **Continued** testing DOT-regulated specimens for MDEA
- **Delayed** testing of federal agency specimens for the added opioids *until the effective date* specified by the federal agency.
- **Delayed** testing of DOT-regulated industry specimens for the added opioids **until further notice** from DOT

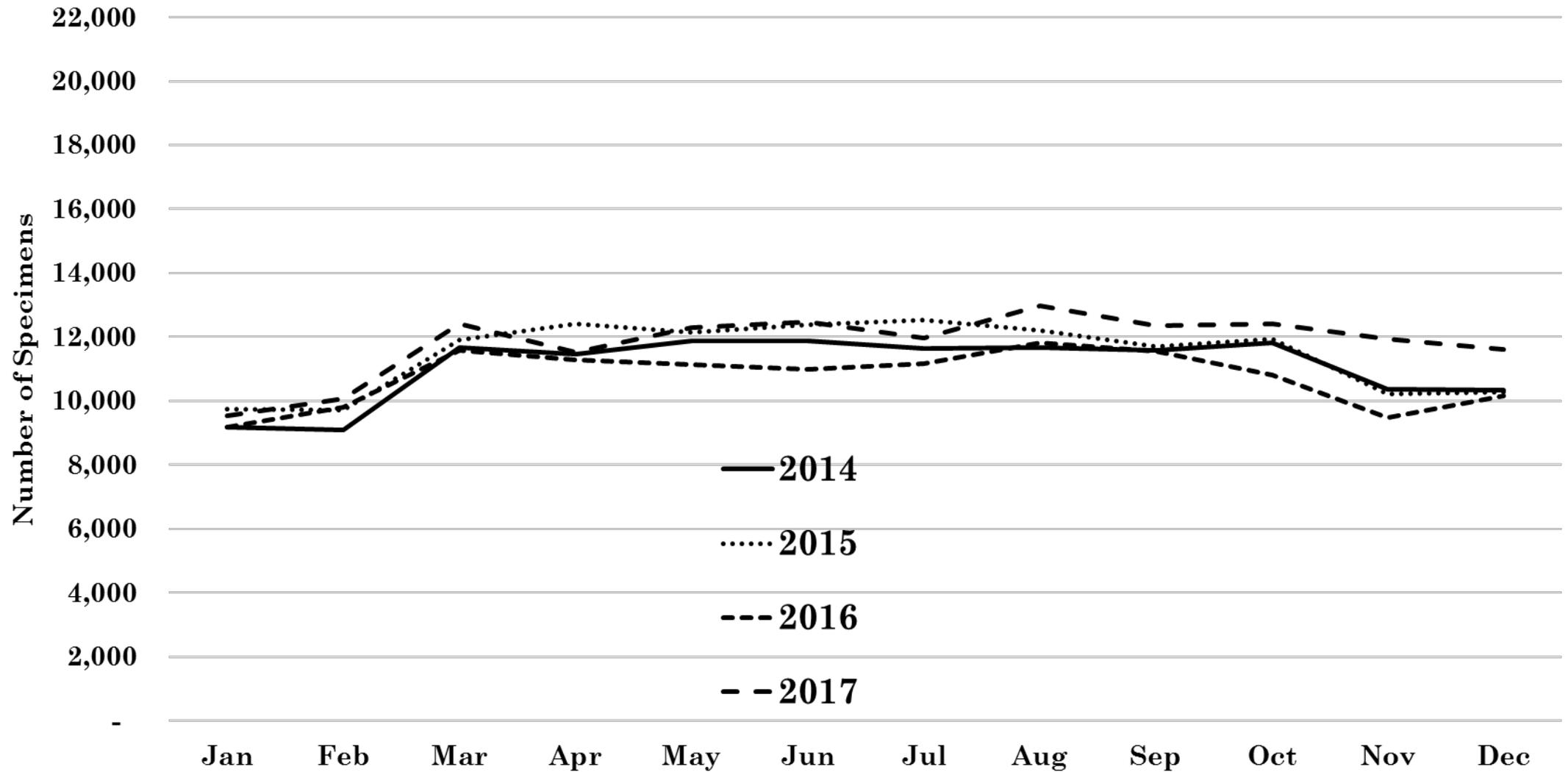
Implementation.....

- Some federal agencies were not prepared to add additional analytes to their drug testing programs by October 1, 2017

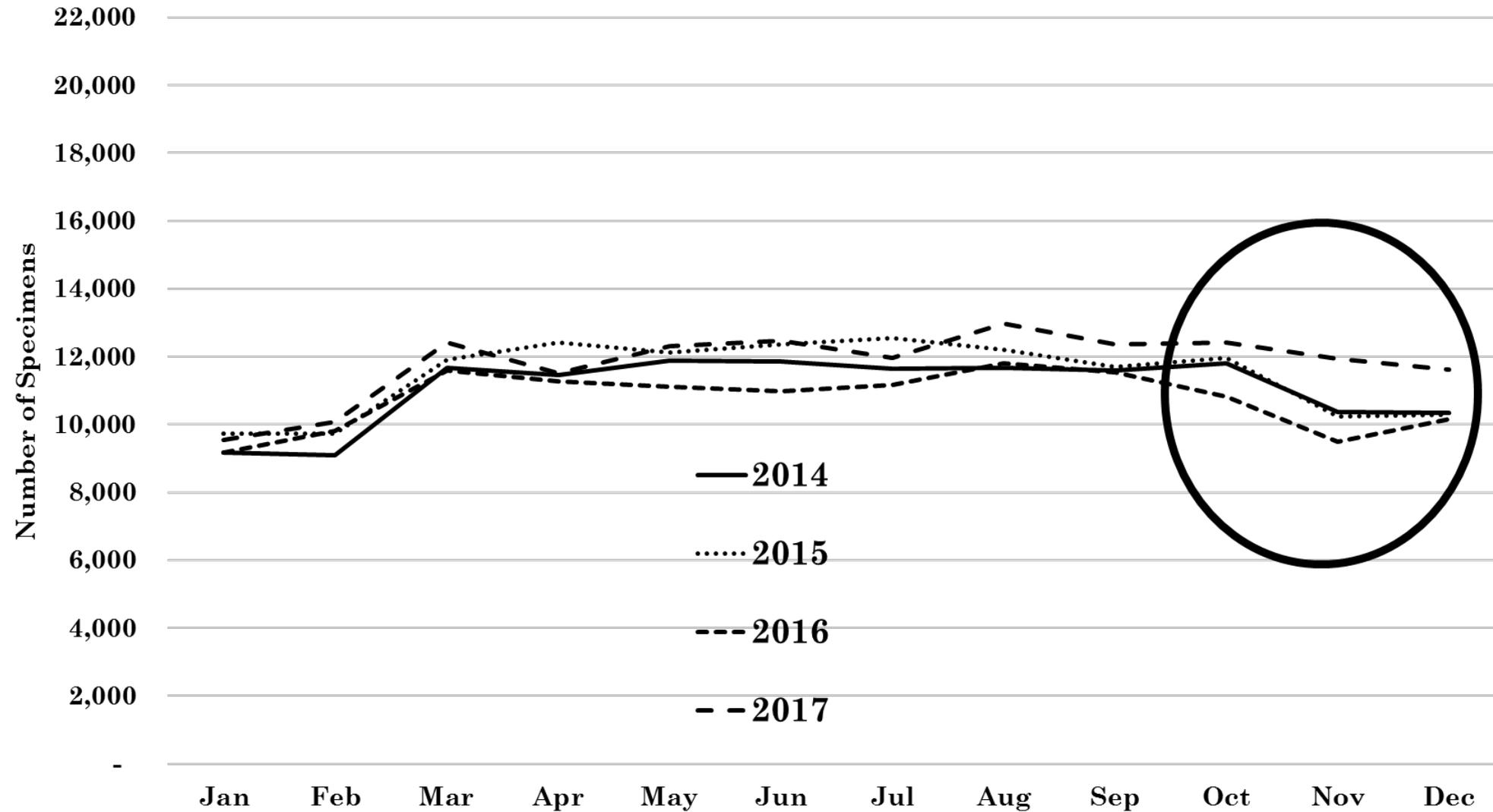
SAMHSA instructed agencies to notify their service providers of the date they will begin testing their workplace specimens for these drugs

- DOT implemented testing for the four additional opioids January 1, 2018
- DOT removed MDEA from its drug testing panel January 1, 2018

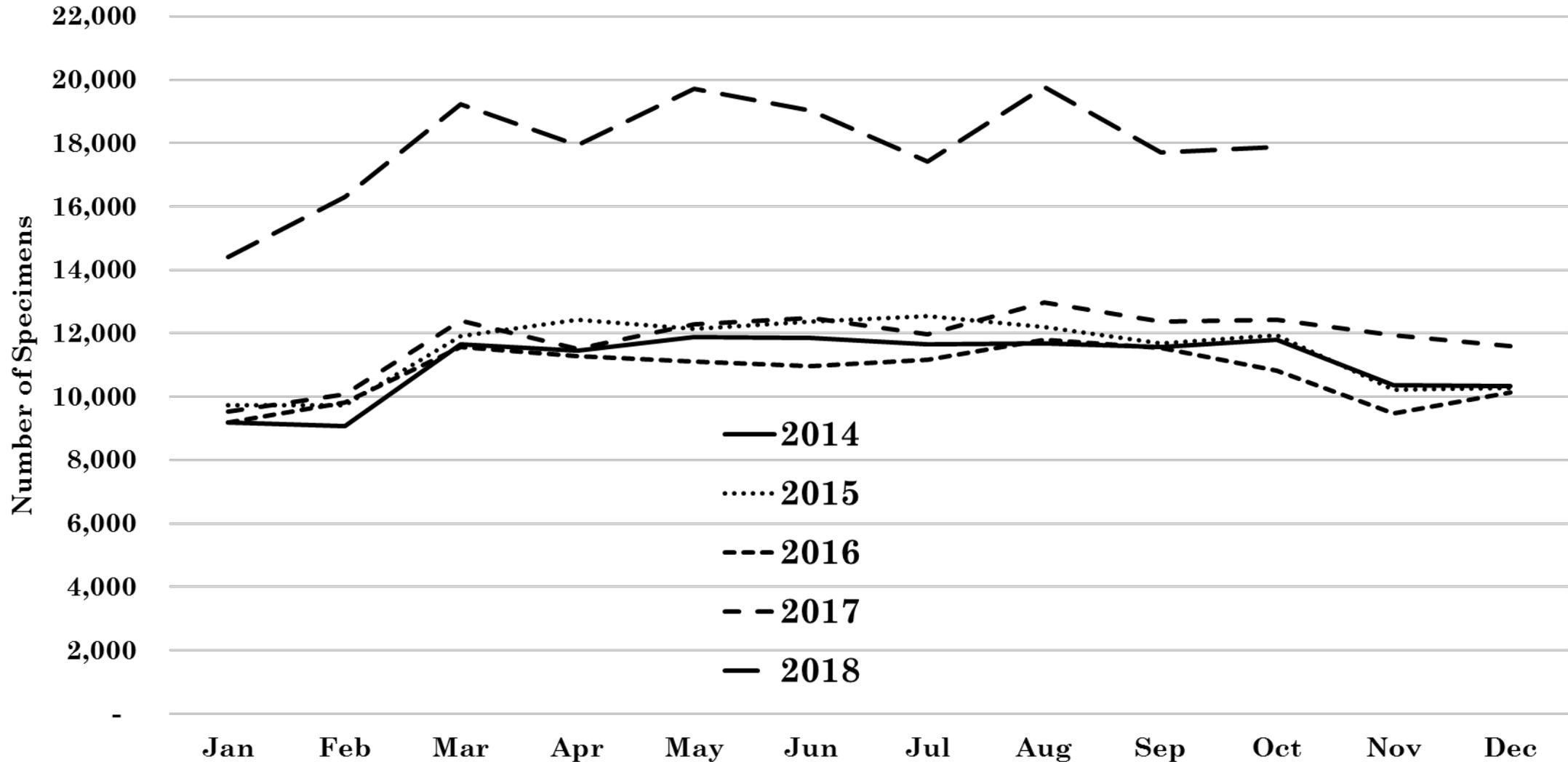
Non-Negative Results (2014 – 2017)



Non-Negative Results (2014 – 2017)

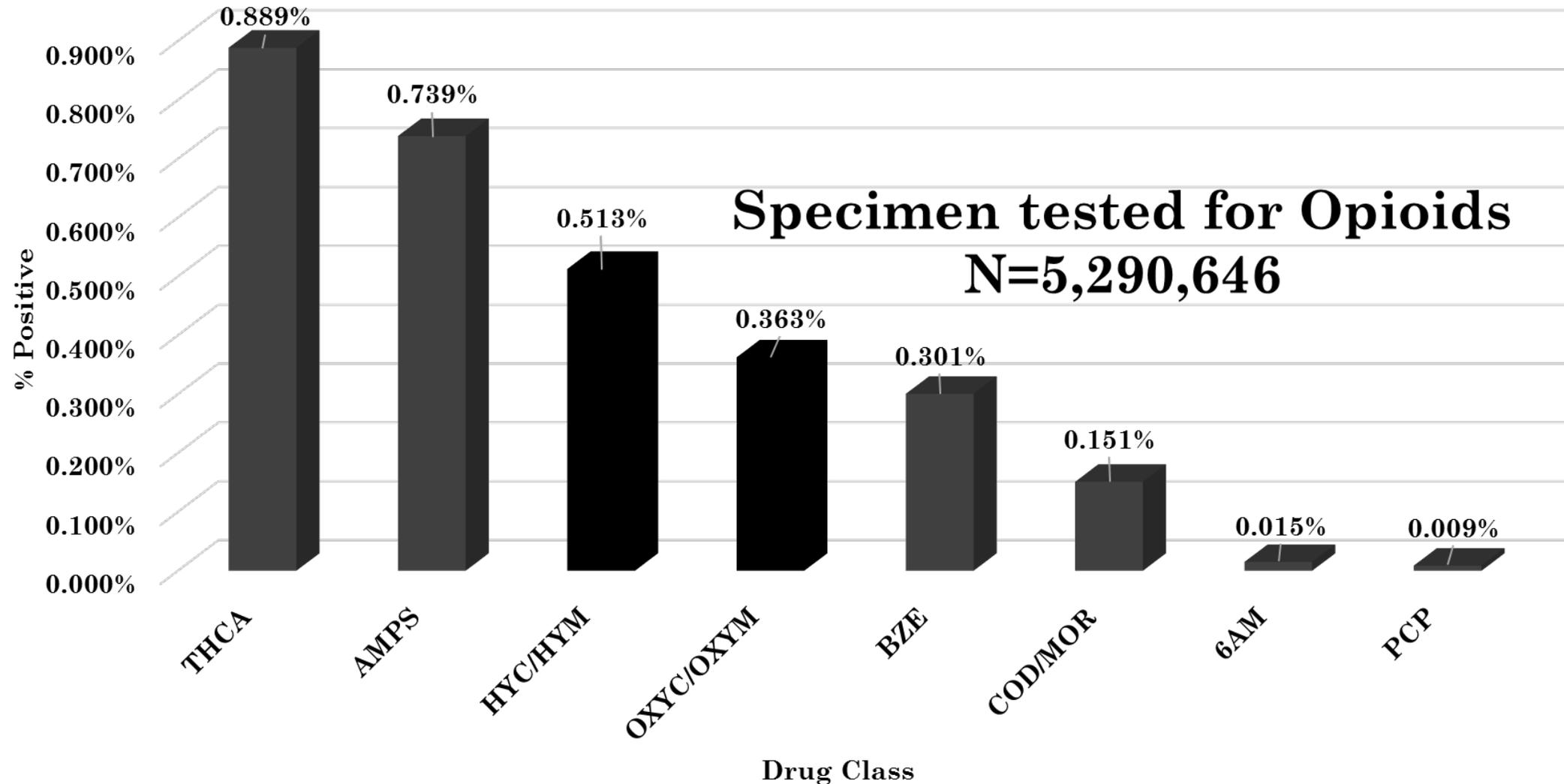


Non-Negative Results (2014 – Oct. 2018)



Opioids

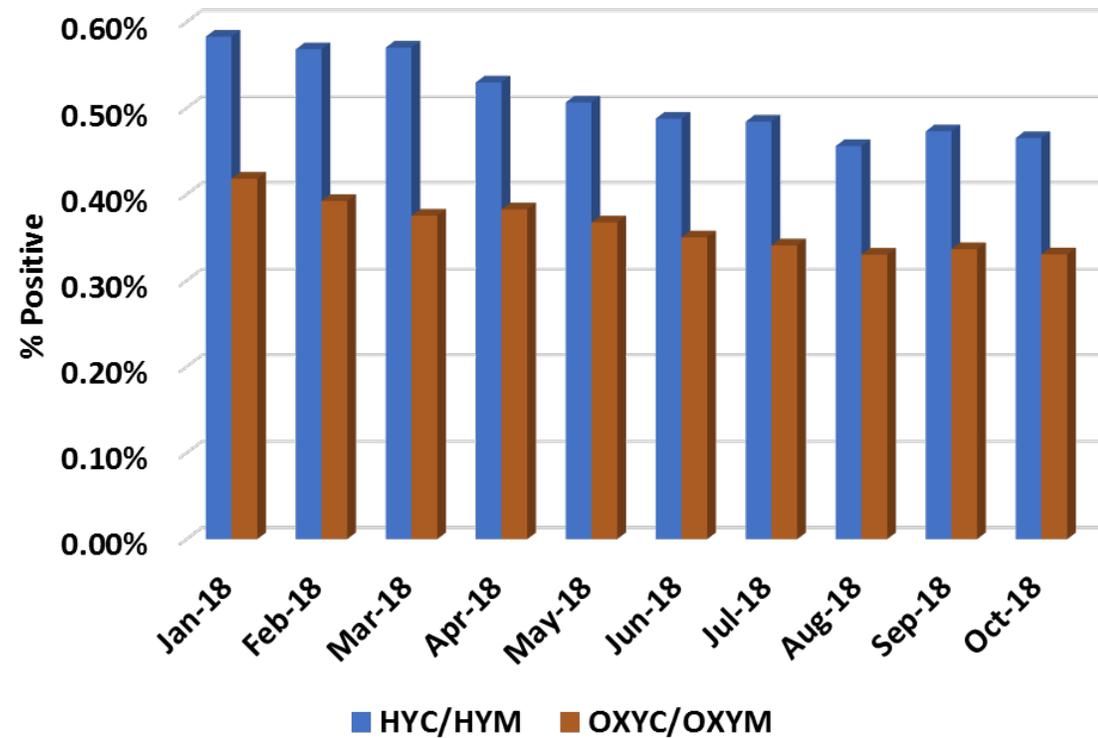
Positivity Rate by Drug Class (Jan. '18 – Oct '18)



Opioids

Positive as percent of total tested		
Period	HYC/HYM	OXYC/OXYM
Jan-18	0.58%	0.42%
Feb-18	0.57%	0.39%
Mar-18	0.57%	0.38%
Apr-18	0.53%	0.38%
May-18	0.51%	0.37%
Jun-18	0.49%	0.35%
Jul-18	0.48%	0.34%
Aug-18	0.46%	0.33%
Sep-18	0.47%	0.34%
Oct-18	0.47%	0.33%

Opioid Positivity Rate by Month
(Jan. '18 – Oct. '18)



Adulteration

Invalid.... to.... Adulterated

- Raised pH cutoff from 3.0 to 4.0 for specimens reported Adulterated due to pH
- Prior to October 1, pH <4.0 was invalid range

What was impact to the number of specimens reported Adulterated?

Change in Number of Specimens Reported Adulterated due to pH

Invalid → Adulterated

For specimens reported as adulterated....

“If the donor is unable to provide a legitimate explanation, the MRO reports a **refusal to test**”¹

Period	Total Adulterated	AD due to pH	pH ≥ 3 and <4	AD (pre-Oct. 1, 2017 UrMG)
Aug-17	92	91		
Sep-17	122	120		
Oct-17	106	102	20	82
Nov-17	119	118	22	96
Dec-17	187	187	22	165
Jan-18	66	65	19	46
Feb-18	48	46	19	27
Mar-18	64	61	13	48
Apr-18	53	53	26	27
May-18	49	45	23	22
Jun-18	57	57	32	25
Jul-18	36	36	19	17
Aug-18	49	47	26	21
Sep-18	48	48	23	25
Oct-18	58	56	36	20

¹UrMG Section 13.5(e)(2)

Summary

- **Reflections**

- Revised UrMG Effective October 1, 2017
- Added opioids, raised pH cutoff, removed MDEA and revised MRO requalification requirements

- **Impacts**

- pH: Detecting more donors trying to subvert the drug test
- Opioids: To be determined.....