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**DRUG USE DROPS IN OREGON:  
EMPLOYER DRUG TESTS DETECT FIVE-YEAR LOW**

*Oregon Has 30% Reduction In Amphetamine Use*

(WASHINGTON) – Signaling significant progress in the effort to reduce methamphetamine use, new data from workplace drug screenings, conducted by Quest Diagnostics, indicate the number of people testing positive for amphetamines, which includes methamphetamine, has hit a five-year low in Oregon. Amphetamines use, which includes meth, reached a peak in Oregon in 2003. Employer drug tests detected 70 out of every 10,000 people testing positive for amphetamines use. For the period of January 2006 through May 2006, 49 out of every 10,000 people tested positive for amphetamines— a 30% reduction over 3 years, and a significant downward trend. In addition, in Oregon, the number of people testing positives for amphetamines decreased by 20% since 2005.

Similarly, the number of meth lab incidents in Oregon decreased from 800 in 2004 to 425 in 2005 – almost a 50% reduction. Nationally, according to the El Paso Intelligence Center’s Clandestine Laboratory Seizure System, the total number of meth lab incidents (operational labs, dumpsites, and sites with equipment) in 2005 was approximately 12,100, down from approximately 17,500 in 2004 – a 30% drop.

John P. Walters, Director of National Drug Control Policy, said, “Aggressive local, state, and Federal efforts have been remarkably effective. By working to cut off precursor chemicals, we have seen significant reduction in domestic meth labs and meth use - encouraging news that we are successfully pushing back against this drug. We will continue to stay vigilant in the fight against meth to make our communities safer and healthier.”

Quest Diagnostics, the largest provider of diagnostic testing, conducts employer drug testing services throughout the Nation, and their Drug Testing Index (DTI), a summary of workplace drug test results, is an indicator of national drug use trends. Previous Quest DTI reports showed increases in workplace positivity for amphetamines, tracking closely with the acceleration of the methamphetamine challenge.

These data corroborate recent findings of decreases in youth meth use nationwide. The recently released Youth Behavior Risk Survey indicates lifetime youth meth use has declined 36.7% nationally since 2001 and the Monitoring the Future survey indicates a 34% decrease in lifetime use among 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders combined since 2001.

For more information, visit [www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov) or [www.questdiagnostics.com](http://www.questdiagnostics.com)

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