

FTA Safety Updates

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APTA Safety Spotlight Webinar

7/16/2026



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Agenda

- FTA Drug & Alcohol Testing Compliance
- Drug & Alcohol Data Trends
- GD 24-1 Effective Mitigation Practices Fact Sheet



FTA Drug Testing Compliance

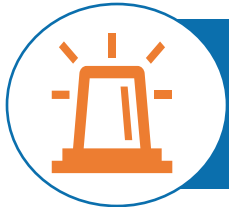
Drug testing data trends observed by FTA related to:



Violations



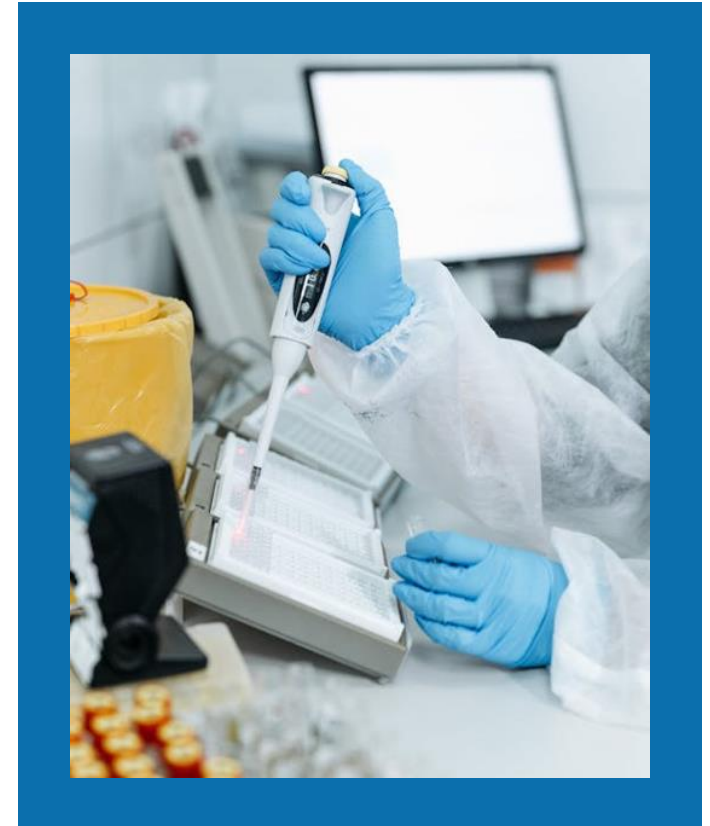
Positive Rates



Random Testing



Post-Accident Testing



Final Rule on Oral Fluid Testing

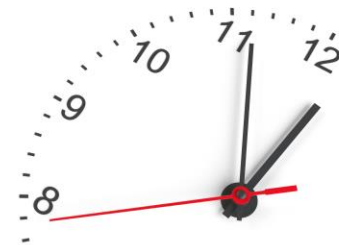
What

- The U.S. DOT's Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Compliance (ODAPC) issued a final rule amending 49 CFR Part 40, effective June 10, 2026.
- This final rule revises the drug testing procedures to require a directly observed urine collection in situations where an oral fluid collection is mandated but cannot be conducted because oral fluid testing is not yet available.



When

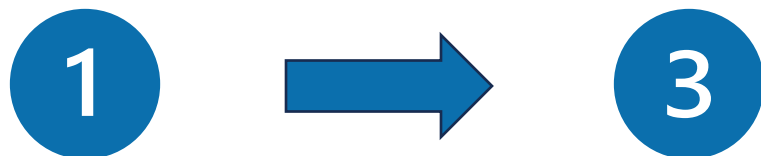
- The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has not yet certified oral fluid testing laboratories.
- ODAPC will provide the industry notice once oral fluid testing is available and employers may begin using oral fluid as a drug testing option under the DOT program.
- Additional details on the final rule can be viewed at [ODAPC's website](#).



DOT Notice on Marijuana Testing

What Changed?

- The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued a [final order](#) on April 23, 2026, reclassifying state-licensed medical marijuana products and FDA-approved drugs containing marijuana from **Schedule I to Schedule III**.
 - Schedule III drugs, substances, or chemicals are defined by the DEA as drugs with a moderate to low potential for physical and psychological dependence.
 - Schedule III drugs have less abuse potential compared to Schedule I and Schedule II.

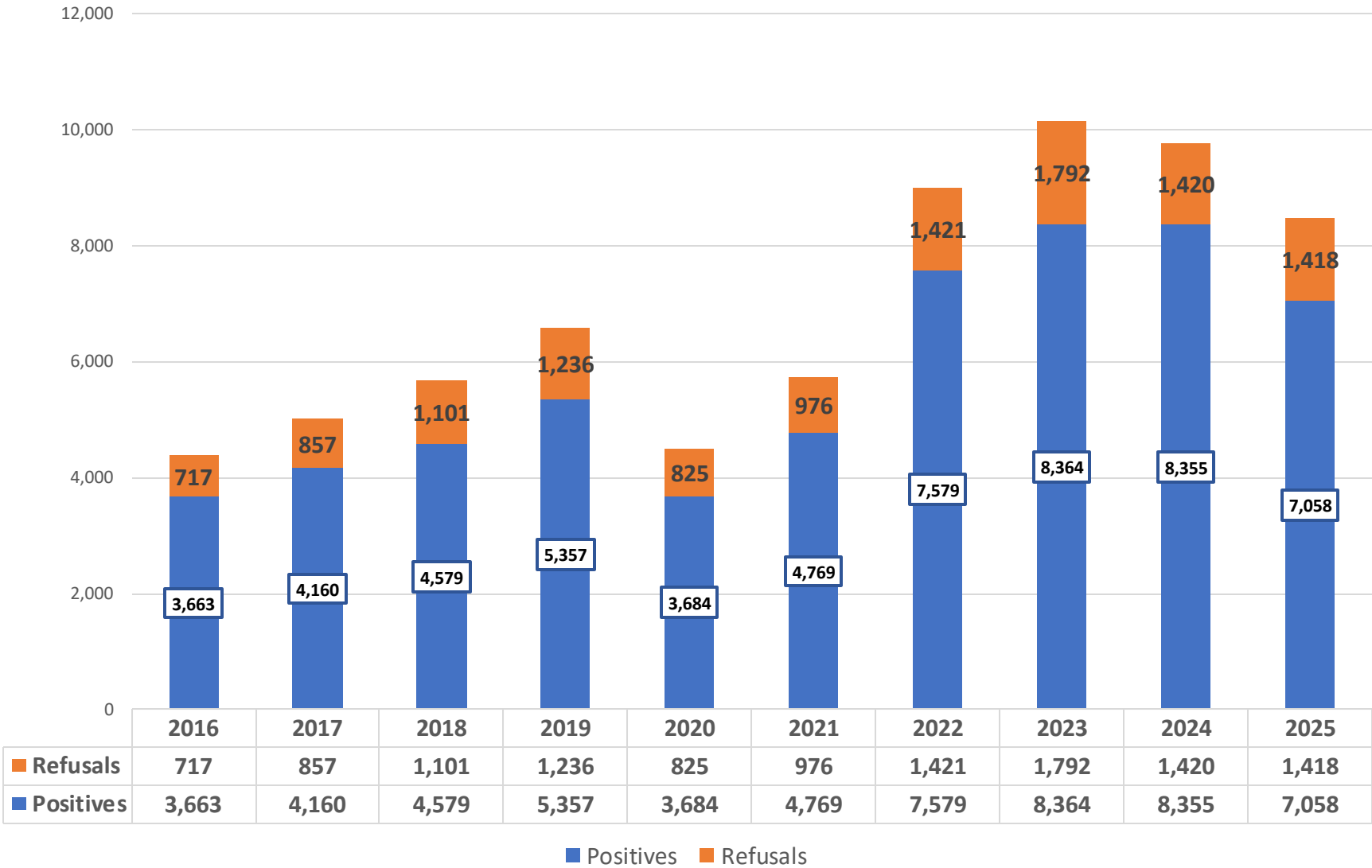


What Remains the Same?

- Marijuana still remains a Schedule I drug under the Controlled Substances Act. There are **no changes** to DOT or FTA drug testing requirements or the drug testing process.
- The use of marijuana remains prohibited for all safety-sensitive transportation employees, including FTA covered employees (those who perform or may perform a safety-sensitive function as defined under 655.4).
- DOT's Notice is available on [ODAPC's website](#).



Total FTA Drug Testing Violations, 2016 - 2025



Violation =
Verified Drug Positive +
Refusal

Year	Violations
2016	4,380
2017	5,017
2018	5,680
2019	6,593
2020	4,509
2021	5,745
2022	9,000
2023	10,156
2024	9,775
2025	8,476

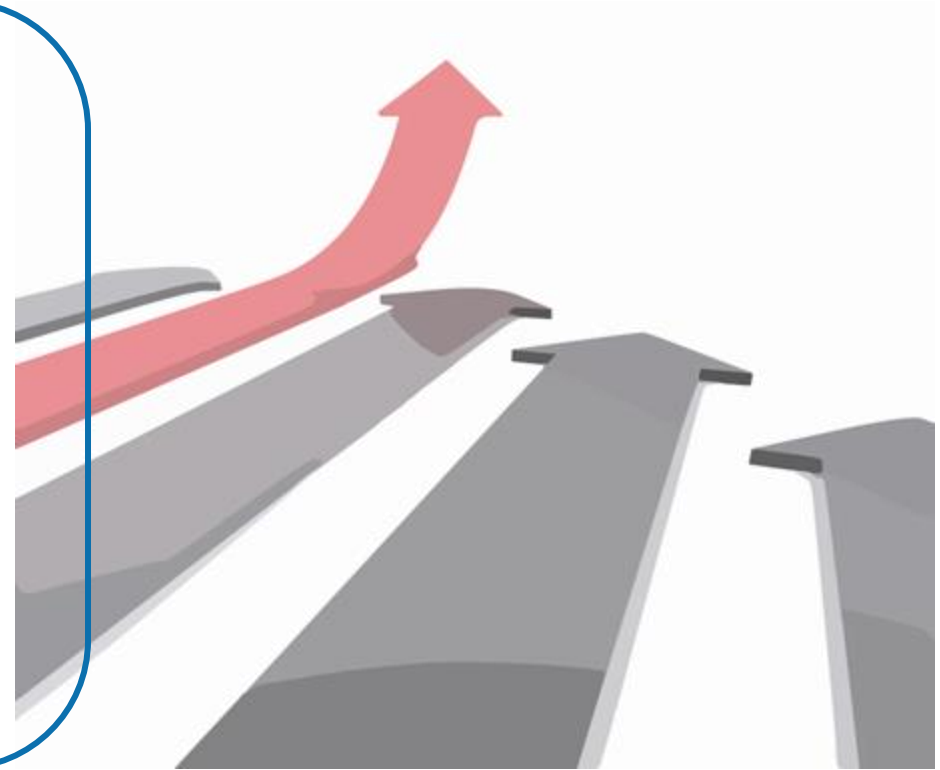


Verified Drug Testing Positives

The data shows positive drug rate overall has increased from 2006-2026.

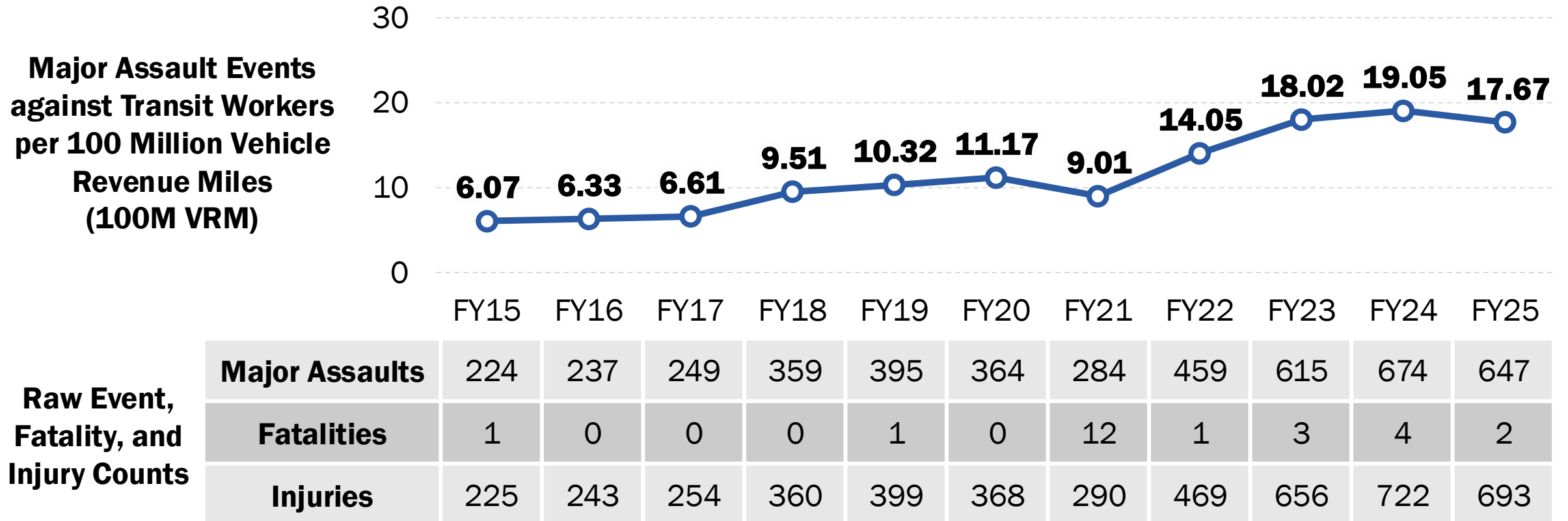
The steady increase in the FTA Drug Positive Rate is due primarily to the increased detection of THC.

The difference in the steady increase is observed after the legalization of marijuana at the State level.



General Directive 24-1 & Mitigation Strategies

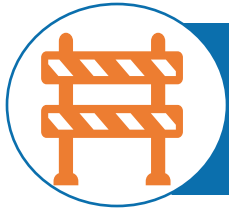
Major Assaults on Transit Workers: FY 2015–25



- **Source:** National Transit Database (NTD)
FY 2025 data are preliminary.

GD 24-1: Effective Mitigation Practices

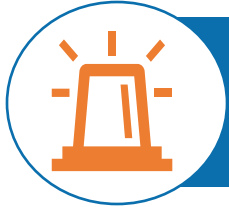
The four most prevalent mitigation strategies include:



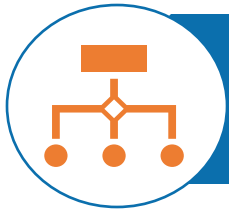
Operator Barriers



De-Escalation Training



Patrol Strategies



Policy and Procedures



 View the GD 24-1 Effective Mitigation Practices Fact Sheet

Mitigation Effectiveness: Comparative Analysis

MITIGATION PRACTICE	RAIL / MULTIMODAL	LARGE BUS	SMALL PROVIDERS
 Operator Barriers e.g., Polycarbonate partitions, retrofitted barriers with locking mechanisms, and custom glass enclosures.	54%	67%	>80%
 De-Escalation Training e.g., De-escalation training programs from NTI, CTAA, and RTAP, in-house and contractor-provided courses.	64%	70%	>59%
 Patrol Strategies e.g., Transit police, contracted or hired security, local law enforcement, and transit ambassadors.	68%	88%	>79%
 Policies and Procedures e.g., Conflict handling protocols, improved communications, stricter penalties, improved training, and standardized reporting procedures.	53%	66%	>76%

Thank You!

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