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Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 9:05 AM

To: Martin LaLonde

Cc: Maxine Grad; Nader Hashim

Subject: Re: Oral Fluids testing questions

Morning Rep. LaLonde,

The statistics I provided were based on the 2007 National Roadside Survey - there were 326 drivers that had oral fluid and blood samples collected in which both tested positive for at least one drug. By comparing the positive results, there was an overall agreement rate of 97.2% - meaning the oral fluid and blood samples were positive for overlapping drugs or drug classes. I'd be remiss if I didn't also mention that there were a number of samples in which one the oral fluid and blood results did not match (i.e. one positive while the other was negative). However, much of that is based on what I relayed in my testimony - the scope of drugs detected in blood were not the same as those detected in oral fluid.

As far as accuracy is concerned, the instrumentation/methods utilized for evidentiary testing are the same for both blood and oral fluid samples. In setting up those methods, labs such as ours, undergo rigorous validation processes to ensure the results are an accurate and reliable indication of what's in the sample. That goes for THC as well as other drugs that are included in the analysis.

It's difficult to provide a list of what can be tested for in saliva vs. blood because it all depends on what you're interested in (for us it would be commonly abused drugs that can impair). The list will vary from lab to lab. However, here is a sample of what could be included:

Benzodiazepines (ex. lorazepam, clonazepam, diazepam, etc.)

Cannabis (THC)

Cocaine

Fentanyl

Methamphetamine, amphetamine

Opiates (morphine, hydrocodone, etc.)

PCP

Tricyclic antidepressants

Zolpidem

The list for blood could be much longer because some drugs aren't detectable in saliva or persist longer in blood.

Hopefully this helps, but let me know if there are any additional questions.

Thanks,
Trisha

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