FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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"New Study Exposes Massive Safety Gap in the U.S. Truck Driver Population"

The Study's Parameters:

- The Dept. of Transportation claims fewer than 1% of truck drivers fail the agency's pre-employment urine drug screening.
- It's commonly known, however, that drug users easily thwart urine drug screens.
- For that reason, a number of trucking companies ask drivers to pass the federal urine screen and a company-required hair test.
- These companies have now submitted **1.2 million** screening results between 2017-2025.
- Researchers at the University of Tennessee and University of Central Arkansas performed a comparative analysis of the drug screens.

Key Findings (2017–2025)

- Hair testing is **9x more effective** than urine.
- In other words, 9 out of 10 drug users (90%) pass the federal urine drug screening.
- Hair tests flagged **33,527** truck driver applicants **(5.55%)**,
- Urine tests caught only **3,677** applicants **(0.59%)**.
- Positive hair drug tests were an **811.8% increase** over positive urine results.

Hard Drug Detection (2024–2025)

- Cocaine: Hair caught **861** users; federal drug screen caught **14**.
- Amphetamines/Meth: Hair caught **397** users; federal drug screen caught **29**.

Impacts on Highway Safety:

- The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) didn't disqualify 33,527 drug-positive truck drivers from the hair drug test.
- Those drivers are allowed to operate commercial vehicles, despite impaired driving being a leading cause of fatal crashes.
- The agency data computations on drug use among truck drivers is masking the true danger posed to the general public.
- For example,
    - In 2022, FMCSA reported that in post-accident drug tests after a fatality crash, only **6%** of **5,760 drivers** tested positive for drugs.
    - The Omission: But the agency opted to **exclude 58%** (3,340) of the drivers who never submitted to a post-accident drug test.
    - The True Rate: When isolating the 1,225 truck drivers who completed the federal drug screening test, **the actual post-accident positivity rate jumped to 28.3%.**

Further conclusions can be found in the study.
To download the complete research report click here.

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