

Increase in positive drug tests at work

The trend of an increasing number of drug tests at Swedish workplaces continues. At the same time, the proportion of positive test results is also rising now more than double what it was four years ago. This is revealed by new statistics from the occupational health service that Avonova has produced.

When Avonova took a closer look at the drug tests conducted at Swedish workplaces during 2024, the statistics indicated an increase of nearly seven percent compared to last year. Thus, the development from previous years continues, with the increase between 2017 and 2024 amounting to a total of 239 percent.

“Unfortunately, it’s not just the number of tests that is growing; we are also seeing an increase in the proportion of positive results. In 2020, one percent of the tests yielded a positive result, but now over two percent are positive,” explains Fredrik Sparring, company physician and specialist in dependency issues at Avonova.

Previous investigations by Avonova have shown that cannabis is the most common substance among the positive test results, and that the construction industry stands out as the most affected.

“It is high time that dependency issues are prioritized more highly by more employers. First and foremost, it is about saving individuals from a destructive future addiction, but it is also a matter of safety and corporate productivity. We also need to change the perception of drug use, so that employees have the opportunity for rehabilitation in the same way as for alcohol dependency,” says Fredrik Sparring.

Avonova’s statistics on drug tests and positive test results (2021-2024)

Year	Number of tests	Percentage of positive tests
2021	5,350	1.2%
2022	8,035	1.5%
2023	8,946	1.9%
2024	9,548	2.1%

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About Avonova

Avonova is Nordic's leading provider of occupational health services and is the only Nordic occupational health services provider with a fully integrated hybrid digital/physical delivery model.

Avonova offers a comprehensive range of services to promote well-being and reduce absences, among employees of companies and institutions of all sizes and in all industries. It is leading in preventive evidence based occupational health services in highest impact areas, such as presenteeism, vaccination, and drug testing and rehab.

Avonova has its main offices in Larvik, Norway and Stockholm, Sweden and delivers its services digitally and from 166 locations in Norway and Sweden, by about 1 100 employees – mainly physicians, psychiatrists, nurses, and workplace engineers. For more information, visit www.avonova.se/no/fi.