



NAVY AND MARINE CORPS PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER

IMPROVING READINESS THROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH ACTION

HEALTH ANALYSIS



Modeling Informs Policy and Work-Life Improvements

Navy Drug Screening Laboratory-Great Lakes (NDSL-GL) leadership wants to continually improve efficiency, avoid errors, and increase throughput in the specimen Accessioning section of the lab. High specimen volume and lengthy screening process times led NDSL-GL leadership to seek alternate options to reduce overtime and improve work-life balance.

We analyzed the effect of switching from linear (1D) barcodes to 2-dimensional (2D) barcodes for sample identification in the drug screening process. We also compared the productivity of working alternate work schedules, specifically a standard 8 hours, 5 days per week with 10 hours, 4 days per week.

Simulation results showed that implementing the 2D barcoding system would likely result in a significant increase in throughput of specimens, which was confirmed and resulted in a reduction in the need for overtime. Model results showed no reductions in productivity, or slight gains, giving NDSL-GL leadership confidence to introduce alternate work schedules. Model findings were also used to write a policy for an alternative work schedule, and according to findings on their climate survey, “work-life balance just blew through the roof.”

Learn more: www.med.navy.mil/Navy-Marine-Corps-Public-Health-Center/Population-Health/Health-Analysis/