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Proficiency Testing of Cannabis Analysis Laboratories Shows Progress Toward Federal Quality Standards

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Abstract: Our team of researchers has analyzed proficiency testing (PT) data collected from state certified Cannabis analysis labs biannually from 2018-2021, yielding a total of eight PT rounds. The data sets were analyzed for trends in accuracy and precision; federal quality standards set by the FDA and EPA for analytical labs were illustrated as a reference comparison to the PT data. The analysis showed that the rate of increase in data quality was inversely correlated to overall method complexity. The dataset was then normalized for statistical metrics created by the analytics research team to quantify the complexity of the analytical methods for further analysis. Thus, after normalizing the dataset, correlations between markers of complexity and overall data quality are illustrated and explored. Finally, the suitability of the statistical metrics as complexity markers is assessed against the experimentally derived data from our dataset.