

# **Alcohol and other drug abuse in your workplace**

## **Impact on workers' compensation insurance costs and company profits**

- ◆ 75.2% of illicit drug users are employed<sup>1</sup>.
- ◆ 19.1 million Americans are current illicit drug users.<sup>2</sup>
- ◆ 77.6% of adults classified as substance-dependent/abusers are employed.<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ 35% of employees have seen/heard of drug use on the job.<sup>4</sup>
- ◆ 11% of employees have been offered drugs to use at work.<sup>5</sup>
- ◆ Amphetamine-positive test results have increased 85% between 2001-2005.<sup>6</sup>
- ◆ 48% of all drug-related hospital emergency room episodes involved people 35-44 years of age.<sup>7</sup>
- ◆ 15% (19.2 million) of employees report drinking/impairment at work, drinking just before work, or being hung over at work during a twelve-month period.<sup>8</sup>
- ◆ Random testing will identify daily and monthly drug users 93% of the time.<sup>9</sup>
- ◆ When compared to employees without a diagnosed substance abuse problem, alcohol abusers are 2 times as likely, drug abusers are 3 times as likely, & alcohol-and-drug abusers are 4 times as likely to be hospitalized for an injury.<sup>10</sup>

***Alcohol and other drug use by employees will cost your business time, productivity, higher workers compensation and medical premiums and decrease your profits.***

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<sup>1</sup>2004 National Survey on Drug Use & Health, U. S. Dept. Of Health & Human Services, SAMHSA

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Institute for a Drug-Free Workplace: Worker Attitudes on Drug Abuse

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

<sup>6</sup>Quest Diagnostics, Inc., Drug Test Index 2005

<sup>7</sup>Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) Survey, 2002

<sup>8</sup>Frone, M.R., "Prevalence and distribution of alcohol use and impairment in the workplace: A U.S. national survey," Journal of Studied on Alcohol, Vol. 67, No. 1, p. 147. January 2006

<sup>9</sup>Journal of Addictive Diseases. "Random Drug Tests at Work: The Probability of Identifying Frequent and Infrequent Users of Illicit Drugs". Dupont, Robert, M.D. et al., Vol. 14, No. 3, 1995.

<sup>10</sup>Miller, Ted R., Ph.D. Paper: "Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research." January 2001