

FACT SHEET

drugs alcohol and work

- * 73% of drug users age 18 and older are employed
6.7 million full-time
1.6 million part-time
- * In 1997, 6.8% of Americans employed full-time reported heavy drinking in the previous month.
- * Of the 11.2 million heavy drinkers in 1997, 30% were also illicit drug users.
- * Approximately 60% of illegal drug users work for companies with 500 or fewer employees.
- * 11% work for companies with fewer than 25 employees

By Industry

Of fully employed drug users aged 18-49, 17.3% were in construction, 16.3% food preparation, 15.4% waitstaff. Only 2.2% were administrative support staff, 2.3% teachers, and 2.6% child care workers. Of course more than 40% of illicit drug users are in other industries.

EFFECTIVENESS OF TREATMENT

A study of 4,411 people in a federally funded treatment program showed a reduction of illicit drug abuse by nearly 50% and by two-thirds for alcohol abuse in the 5-16 months after treatment. The percentage of people selling drugs, shoplifting or beating someone up in the past year dropped by almost 80% 5-16 months after treatment. The percentage of welfare declined from 40% to 35%.

Substance abuse costs businesses an estimated \$100 billion annually. By supporting substance abuse programs, and a drug-free workplace, employers can:

- * **increase productivity and raise employee morale**
- * **reduce absenteeism**
- * **reduce corporate liability**
- * **reduce errors and increase quality of performance**
- * **lower worker's compensation insurance or health insurance premiums and**
- * **improve safety**

A 1995 survey showed that after a one year treatment, 668 substance abuse residents decreased absenteeism by 89%, tardiness by 92% and on-the-job injuries by 57%.

Employers can fight substance abuse by:

- * **Recognizing that addiction treatment is a wise investment**
- * **Having a comprehensive substance abuse treatment program in place including support for bias-free dialogue**
- * **Offer health insurance policies for employees including equal coverage for substance abuse treatment**

Based on current trends, in the year 2000, this country will spend **\$100 MILLION A DAY** to incarcerate individuals with serious drug and alcohol problems.

For information about alcohol and drug abuse treatment programs
in your community call **1.800.662.HELP**

**THESE FACTS WERE TAKEN FROM THE NATIONAL ALCOHOL & DRUG
ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH**