



Substance Use Disorders in the Workforce

How substance use affects your workplace may depend on your industry. Different sectors incur various hazards. In order to keep your workplace safe from undue risk associated with substance use, it is important to understand how it may manifest in the workplace. As with any safety insecurity, these come at a cost.

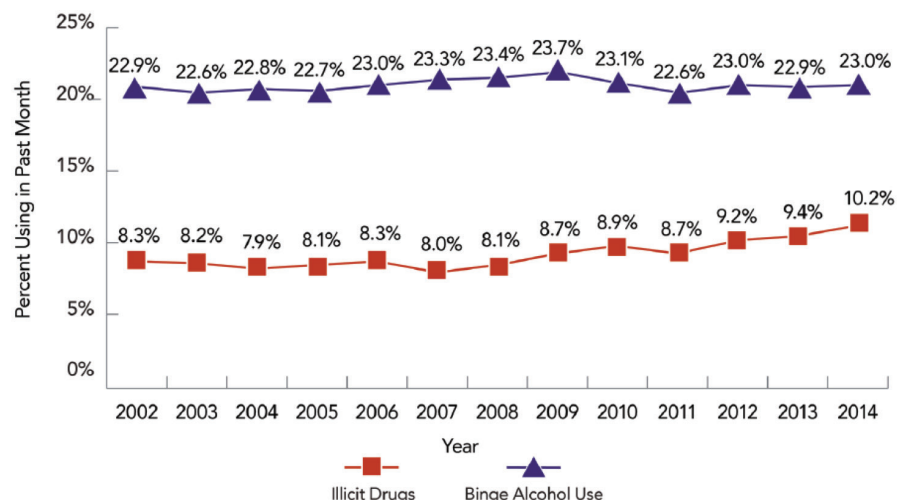
Substance Use by Industry

- Alcohol is the most commonly misused drug in the U.S. (Figure 1.1).¹
- The construction (15%) and entertainment, recreation, and food industries (15.3%) have the highest rates of substance use disorders (SUDs) among employees compared to other industries.

Costs

- The average excess cost is \$3,134 per employee with SUD.²
- One study found drug abuse was responsible for a 17% reduction in productivity for men and an 18% reduction in productivity for women.³

Figure 1.1: Past Month Rates of Substance Use Among People Aged 12 or Older: Percentages, 2002-2014, 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)

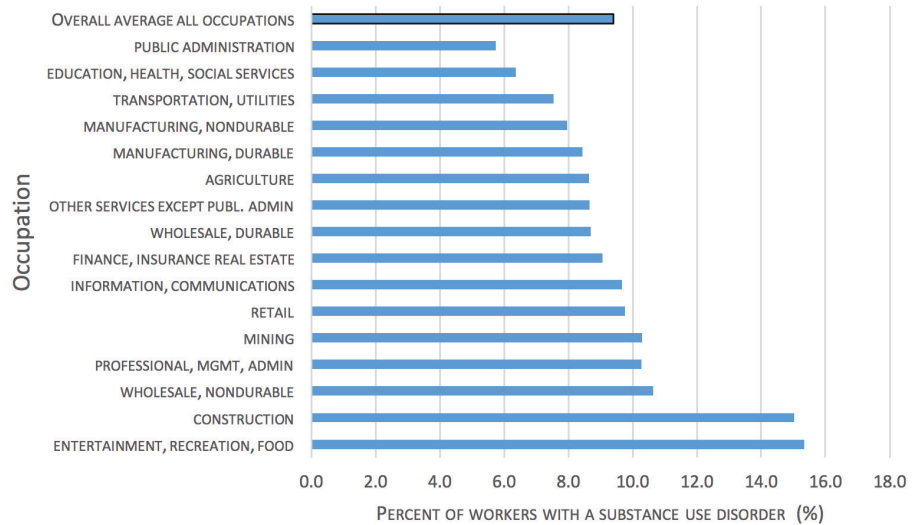


Alcohol is the most commonly misused drug in the U.S.

Costs Avoided

- Employers save on average \$2,607 per employee who is in recovery for SUD.⁴

Substance Use Disorders by Occupation



¹U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of the Surgeon General, Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health. Washington, DC: HHS, November 2016.

²National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) 2012-2014.

³Florence, C.S., Zhou, C., Luo, F., & Xu, L. (2016). The economic burden of prescription opioid overdose, abuse, and dependence in the United States, 2013. *Med Care*, 54: 901-906.

⁴National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) 2012-2014.



National Safety Council
1121 SPRING LAKE DRIVE
ITASCA, IL 60143-3201
(800) 621-7619
nsc.org