

Drugs & Alcohol Awareness – The Facts!



The cost to industry of illegal drug use is estimated at **£800 million** each year.

60% of employers reported problems due to alcohol misuse

27% reported problems due to drug misuse. (Alcohol Concern/DrugScope, 2001)

Substance abusers don't have to indulge on the job to have a negative impact on the work- place. Compared to their non- abusing co-workers, they are:

- **Ten** times more likely to miss work
- **3.6** times more likely to be involved in on-the-job accidents and 5 times more likely to injure themselves or another person in the process.
- **Five** times more likely to file a worker's compensation claim
- **33%** less productive
- Responsible for health care costs that are **three** times as high

Problems that can arise where employees are misusing substances can include:

- Poor performance and reduced productivity
- Increased staff turnover and loss of experienced staff
- **Absenteeism:** Up to **14 million** working days are lost as a result of alcohol misuse, amounting to **3-5%** of all absence.
- **Presenteeism:** An employee may be at work but will under-perform due to alcohol or drug use at lunchtime, during breaks or from the previous night. A hangover can affect an individual's work and might be perceived negatively by colleagues and/or clients.
- Increase in complaints
- Damage to organisation's reputation and image
- Accidents: Alcohol contributes to an estimated **20-25%** of workplace accidents
- Stress and low morale
- Workplace bullying
- Theft by employees
- Health problems