

# FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL IN THE WORKPLACE

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING DATA:

- **More than six percent of the population over 12 years of age** (13.9 million people) has used drugs within the past thirty days. Rates of use remain highest among person's aged 16 to 25 the age group entering the work force most rapidly.
- **Seventy-three percent of all current drug users aged 18 and older** (8.3 million adults) were employed in 1997. This includes 6.7 millions full-time workers and 1.6 million part-time workers.
- **According to a national survey conducted by the Hazelden Foundation**, more than sixty percent of adults know people who have gone to work under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- **In 1990, problems resulting from the use of alcohol and other drugs cost** American businesses an estimated \$81.6 billion in lost productivity due to premature death (37 billion) and illness (44 billion); 86% of these combined costs were attributed to drinking.
- **Americans consume 60 percent of the world's production of illegal drugs:** 23 million use marijuana at least four times a week; 18 million abuse alcohol' 6 million regularly use cocaine; and 2 million use heroin.
- **Compared to their non-abusing coworkers, they are:**
  1. Ten times more likely to miss work
  2. 3.6 times more likely to be involved in on-the-job accidents (and five times more likely to injure themselves or another in the process)
  3. Five times more likely to file a worker's compensation claim
  4. 33 percent less productive
  5. Responsible for health care costs that is three times as high.
- Working at minimal capacity, these workers increase the workload of others, lower productivity, compromise product quality, and can tarnish a company's image. Their absences and health care demand raise costs. They reduce competitiveness and profitability, weakening the companies that employ them threatening everyone's job security.