

## The Cost of Substance Abuse in the Workplace

Employee substance abuse can create safety hazards for employers, co-workers and the public. There are also the costs of lost business opportunities arising from missed deadlines, diminished product quality, and damaged business reputation. Look at these sobering statistics.

**Employee absenteeism** - Problem drinkers are absent from work four to eight times more often than normal. Drug users are absent from work an average of five days per month due to substance abuse.

**Less productivity** - When they do show up, substance abusers are 33% less productive and cost their employers \$7,000 annually.

**Industrial fatalities** – 47% of industrial injuries can be linked to alcohol abuse.

**Workplace accidents** - Drug using employees are four times more likely to be involved in workplace accidents and five times more likely to file a workers' compensation claim.

**Higher workers' compensation costs** - 38% to 50% of all workers' compensation claims are related to substance abuse.

**Higher medical costs** - Substance abusers are three times more likely to use medical benefits than other employees.

**Workplace theft** – 80% of drug users steal from their workplaces to support their habits.

**Workplace violence** - Substance abuse is the third leading cause of workplace violence.

**The source of this article is the Drug Free Pennsylvania nonprofit organization, <http://www.drugfreepa.org>**