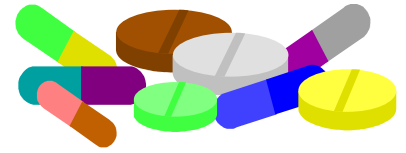


# Facts About Substance Abuse

- A study of rehabilitating substance abusers revealed that:
  - 75% admitted they used alcohol or drugs on the job
  - 44% sold drugs to other employees
  - 18% stole from co-workers to support their habit
  - 22% borrowed from co-workers to support their habit
- A substance abuser is late to work 3 times more often than a non-user, requests early dismissal/time-off 2.2 times more often, has increased mistakes and errors in judgement more often, uses 3 times more sick benefits, and is 5 times more likely to file a workers' compensation claim.
- Drug abuse cost the nation's economy an estimated \$100 billion annually, which is \$876 for every employed person in the United States. Alcohol abuse and alcohol related problems are estimated to cost American businesses \$50 billion annually.
- Americans consume 60% of all illegal drugs produced worldwide.
- 10 million Americans use prescription drugs without an appropriate prescription.



## Marijuana Abuse



- Marijuana is the most widely used illegal drug in the United States. Over 70 million Americans over age 12 have tried marijuana. Over 5 million Americans smoke marijuana at least once a week.
- Heavy users show signs of dependence – i.e. they use the drug to feel normal or well. Heavy marijuana users report withdrawal symptoms of restlessness, loss of appetite, difficulty sleeping, weight loss, and tremors.
- Short Term Effects of Marijuana Use:
  - Impaired or reduced short term memory; difficulty keeping track of time
  - Impaired ability to perform tasks that require coordination and concentration
  - Sleepiness; increased heart rate; bloodshot eyes; dry mouth and throat
  - Decreased social inhibitions; link between marijuana use, unsafe sex, and HIV
  - Paranoia; hallucinations
  - Poor performance at work or at school; loss of desire to be successful
- Long Term Effects of Marijuana Use:
  - Increased cancer risk
  - Decrease in testosterone level for men – lower sperm count
  - Increased infertility in women
  - Increased tolerance
  - Dependence
  - More dramatic decrease in motivation and performance

# Alcohol Abuse



- Alcohol abuse results in hospitalization more than any other drug, with cocaine abuse second.
- Alcoholism is considered industry's greatest problem. The average annual cost for the alcohol addicted employee is \$8,551.
- Only 3% - 5% of all alcoholics in the United States are on 'Skid-Row'. Most alcoholics are working members of the society who are in the early or middle stages of the disease. There are 10 to 15 million alcoholics in the United States. One out of every ten who drink will develop the disease.
- There are over 500 meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous in the Greater Cincinnati area each week. Some meetings have up to 100 participants.
- Alcohol is the third leading cause of death among adults, led only by heart disease and cancer.
- Alcohol is the number one cause of death among adolescents, followed by suicide and murder.
- 2/3 of all homicides are committed by people who have been drinking.
- 3% - 4% of the driving population is legally drunk at any time. This rate doubles at night and on weekends.
- The separation and divorce rate in families with alcohol dependency problems is 7 times the greater than the average.
- 40% of family court cases are alcohol related.
- Alcoholics are 15% more likely to commit suicide.
- More than 60% of burns, 40% of falls, 69% of boating accidents, and 76% of private aircraft accidents are alcohol related.
- 30,000 people will die each year from alcohol caused liver disease.
- 100,000 people will die each year due to other alcohol related conditions or accidents.



**For confidential assistance, please call  
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