

Drugs Don't Work

Hodac, Inc., Drugs Don't Work Support Center

Substance Abuse

October 2009

Vol. 07

Issue 10



DUI Risk Reduction

Classes

Will be held [Nov. 7th and 8th from 9am- 5pm](#) and [Nov. 9th and 10th from 6:30pm - 9:30pm.](#)

Call Hodac, at
953-5675



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- You must have an assessment prior to attending class. Call office to schedule.
- The assessment is \$82.00. The 20-hour course is \$205.00
- A picture ID is required first day of class.

An Important Workplace Issue

“Drug and alcohol abuse is not a problem that can be isolated from the workplace.”

Drug and alcohol abuse is by no means a new problem. At various times throughout history there have been movements to address substance abuse and its effects. These range from the early temperance movements, prohibition in the United States, the banning of absinthe, the various campaigns against drug producers and traffickers, and the increasingly vigorous measures currently being taken against drinking and driving. Over recent years, one important development, actively supported by the International Labour Organization (ILO), has been the growing realization in many countries that drug and alcohol abuse is an important workplace issue. The issue of drug and alcohol abuse at the workplace has traditionally been met by a dismissive attitude and the reflex of trying to sweep the problem under the carpet, based more on moral precepts than a concern for the health issues involved. Nevertheless, drug and alcohol abuse is not a problem that can be isolated from the workplace. Nearly three out of four substance abusers hold a job. These people are five times more likely to injure themselves or coworkers

and they cause 40% of all industrial fatalities. Substance abusers increase the risk of accidents lower productivity, raise insurance costs, and reduce profits. They can even cost those around them their job or their life. Drug and alcohol abuse not only affects work performance in general, but also results in higher rates of absenteeism, accidents, illness, and mortality. It is therefore an important health and safety issue in its own right. Over recent years, studies have shown that:

- More than 70% of substance abusers hold jobs.
- One worker in four, 18-34, used drugs in the past
- One worker in three knows of drug sales in the workplace
- Americans consume 60% of the world's production of illegal drugs
- 23 million workers use marijuana at least four times a week
- 18 million workers regularly use cocaine
- 2 million workers use heroin.

As more research is carried out on the subject, it has become increasingly evident that workplace problems associated with substance abuse are not confined to alcoholics and drug addicts. This is particularly true in the

case of alcohol. While, at the individual level, alcoholics and other heavy drinkers are the most likely to cause accidents, their numbers in the workplace are relatively small. In comparison, the relative risk of an individual moderate or occasional drinker causing a problem associated with consumption of alcohol is much lower. However, in collective terms, simply because their numbers are much higher, moderate and occasional drinkers account for the largest proportion of substance abuse problems in the workplace. Substance abuse is a continued overindulgence of drugs, both legal and illegal, without medical justification. This type of abuse leads to significant impairment or distress that can manifest itself in one or more of the following ways.

1. Recurrent substance use resulting in a failure to fulfill a major role or obligation at work or home
2. Recurrent substance use in situations that are physically hazardous
3. Recurrent substance related legal problems

Continued substance use despite having persistent or recurrent social or interpersonal problems caused or exacerbated by the effects of the substance

Substance abusers don't have to indulge on the job to have a negative impact on the workplace. Compared to their non-

An Important Workplace Issue (continued from front)

abusing coworkers, they are:

- Ten times more likely to miss work
- 3.6 times more likely to be involved in on-the-job accidents
- Five times more likely to injure themselves or another person in the process
- Five times more likely to file a worker's compensation claim
- 33 percent less productive

Another very important reason why the issue of drug and alcohol abuse cannot be isolated from the workplace is that so many problem drinkers and drug-takers work. The workforce is typically a reflection of the community in which the workers live. In as much as alcohol and drug abuse are present in the community, it is highly possible that the workforce has a similar level of abuse. The workplace is therefore a very significant channel for preventive and remedial action, with the potential to reach an extremely high proportion of workers with alcohol problems and drug users, as well as the members of their families. The workplace can therefore be a vital component of community programs to change attitudes towards the consumption of alcohol and drugs.

Visit us on our website

Our mission is to extend a helping hand to those we serve in Georgia through education, advocacy, prevention and intervention.



This newsletter is published to provide timely information to readers. Its content is not intended as advice for individual problems. Editorial material does not imply endorsement by the owner, publisher, editor or distributors. The reading of this newsletter is equivalent to 10 minutes of employee training for Drugs Don't Work members. For questions regarding your newsletter or DDW program contact DDW Representative, Sherielle Sands at (478) 953-5675 ext. 223

Defensive Driving

Defensive Driving Classes will be held on Oct. 10th and 24th from 9am – 4pm.

You must register in advance. Cost of class is \$75.00 cash or money order. You can get points off your driving record, or get your license reinstated, or get a discount on your driving insurance.

Hodac's Victim Resource Center seeks volunteers for Volunteer Response Teams

Attention!

Must be 18 with own transportation

Must submit to Background check

Must pass a Drug Screen

Please call Hodac, Inc. at 478-953-5675

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Drug Free Work Week: October 19-25, 2009

Drug-Free Work Week is a dedicated time each year to highlight the benefits that drug-free workplace programs bring to employers, workers and communities. And, it's a time to work toward making every week a drug-free work week! It spreads the word that working drug free works to prevent accidents and make workplaces safer; improve productivity and reduce costs; encourage people with alcohol and drug problems to seek help. According to recent research, it's a message that many workers need to hear. 75 percent of the nation's current illegal drug users are employed—and 3.1 percent say they have actually used illegal drugs before or during work hours. 79 percent of the nation's heavy alcohol users are employed—and 7.1 percent say they have actually consumed alcohol during the workday. Drug-free workplace programs help protect employers and employees alike from the potentially devastating consequences of worker alcohol or drug abuse.