

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

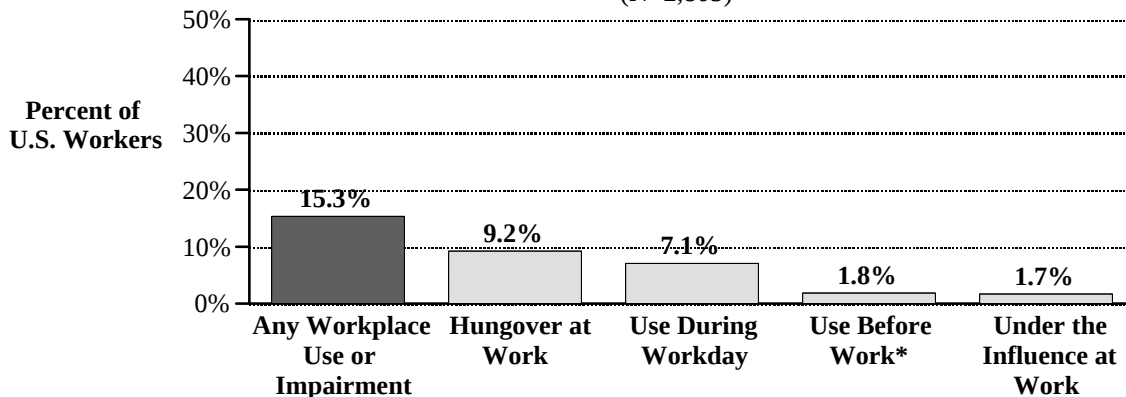
University of Maryland, College Park

15% of U.S. Workers Report Workplace Alcohol Use or Impairment in Past Year

An estimated 19.2 million U.S. workers (15.3%) reported using or being impaired by alcohol at work at least once in the past year, according to recently released data from the National Survey of Workplace Health and Safety. The most common alcohol-related workplace behaviors were being hungover at work (9.2%) and using alcohol during the workday (7.1%), primarily during lunch breaks (see figure below). Despite the relative magnitude of the problem, most workplace alcohol use or impairment occurred infrequently—70% of workers reported using or being impaired by alcohol on a less than monthly basis, 19% reported it on a monthly basis, and 11% reported doing so weekly (data not shown). According to the authors, “the prevalence of alcohol use and impairment in the workplace was sufficiently high to suggest that employers need specific policies directed at alcohol use and impairment at work and employees need to be aware of these policies” (p. 154).

Percentage of U.S. Workers Reporting Using or Being Impaired by Alcohol in the Workplace at Least Once in the Past Year

(N=2,805)



*“Use Before Work” is defined as use within 2 hours of starting a work shift.

NOTE: The National Survey on Workplace Health and Safety was a random digit dialing telephone survey conducted from January 2002 to June 2003 of noninstitutionalized adults (ages 18 to 65) who were employed in the civilian labor force and residing in households in the contiguous United States.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Frone M.R. “Prevalence and Distribution of Alcohol Use and Impairment in the Workplace: A U.S. National Survey,” *Journal of Studies on Alcohol* 67(1):147-156, 2006. For more information, contact Michael R. Frone at frone@ria.buffalo.edu.

CESAR Seeking PI-Level Researchers with Existing Funding

CESAR is seeking PI-level researchers who wish to relocate to CESAR with their existing grants and/or collaborate with CESAR in obtaining new funding. If you have a proven funding track record and are interested in working in a supportive and stimulating, university-based team environment, please send a letter of interest and a resume to Dr. Eric Wish at CESAR, 4321 Hartwick Rd, Ste 501, College Park, MD 20740; 301-403-8342 (fax); cesar@cesar.umd.edu.

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