

## Workplace Drug Use, Testing, Treatment

Statistics on the Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy's website<sup>(1)</sup> are eye-opening:

- 77% of drug abusers are employed. Substance abusers are 33-50% less productive
- Abusers are absent 30-35 days per year and 3 times more likely to be late for work.
- Abusers are 3-4 times more likely to have an accident on the job and 5 times more likely to file a workers' compensation claim.
- 21% of workers report being injured or put in danger, having to re-do work or cover for another employee.



Employee use of prescription and synthetic drugs on the job has grown. Synthetic drugs (K2, Spice, Bath Salts) are called "designer drugs" because they are "designed" to evade workplace drug testing programs and drug laws.<sup>(2)</sup> In a 2012 article in OSH, the authors stated "Drug testing programs must adapt to changing patterns of nonmedical drug use and must now focus on the prescription and synthetic drugs entering our society, including our workplaces."

Drug-free workplace education programs help employers create a healthier, safer environment for their employees and to address workplace substance abuse. There are a variety of programs that can assist employers in creating drug-free workplace policies, and providing education and training to employees and their supervisors.

For more information:

[Iowa Substance Abuse Information Center: Synthetic Drugs \(K2, Bath Salts\)](#)

[United States Department of Labor: Drug-Free Workplace Advisor](#)

[Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: Division of Workplace Programs](#)

<sup>(1)</sup> [Drug-Free Workplace Programs](#). Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy.

<sup>(2)</sup> [A New Challenge for Workplace Programs](#). Robert L. DuPont, David M. Martin, Gregory E. Skipper. *Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S)*, Feb 01, 2012.