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## Did You Know...

The construction and mining industries have the highest number of employees with drinking problems according to a recently published report?

### Employer Risks and Exposures

The report, published by Ensuring Solutions to Alcohol Problems, part of the George Washington University Medical Center, states that almost one in seven workers in the construction and mining industries are problem drinkers, followed by workers in the wholesale and retail industries. Of the eleven industries that were included in the report, workers in government and professional services (e.g., law, medicine, architecture) had the lowest percentages of problem drinkers. These numbers were based on results from the 2003 National Survey on Drug Use and Health<sup>1</sup>.

In addition to the negative effects problem drinking has on the workers themselves, it increases the cost of doing business through higher rates of absenteeism, accidents, health care, and workers' compensation premiums.

### Avoiding Disaster

Develop a comprehensive substance-free workplace policy for your organization if you don't currently have one in place. Regularly educate employees on the dangers of substance abuse and encourage anyone with a drug or alcohol problem to seek professional assistance. Consider whether substance testing is appropriate for your organization to help minimize the cost and negative effects of substance abuse in your workplace.

Employers may display a free poster in the workplace that is available from the U.S. Department of Labor's Working Partners for an Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace Program. The poster emphasizes the importance of a substance free workplace. To download the poster, go to:

[www.dol.gov/asp/programs/drugs/workingpartners/wpposter.pdf](http://www.dol.gov/asp/programs/drugs/workingpartners/wpposter.pdf)

*Note that this is NOT a mandated poster.*

<sup>1</sup> The survey is sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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**For further information or to learn about *AMTEK's* substance testing services, call *AMTEK's* Human Resource Hot Line at **1.800.457.8829.****

CLICK HERE [www.amteKHR.com](http://www.amteKHR.com) FOR A DIRECT LINK TO OUR WEB SITE

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