



Business Specific Statistics on alcohol misuse

Having a loved one with an alcohol problem can affect family members' performance at work; research found that 19% of family members were fired or suspended from work when their loved one was in active addiction (compared to 8% when their loved one was in recovery), and only 59% of family members received a good performance evaluation when their loved one was in active addiction (compared to 90% when their loved one was in recovery).

Andersson, C., Best, D., Irving, J., Edwards, M., Banks, J., Mama-Rudd, A. & Hamer, R. (2018). Understanding recovery from a family perspective: A survey of life in recovery for families. Alcohol Research UK.

The highest earners, those earning £40,000 and above annually, are more likely to be frequent drinkers and "binge" on their heaviest drinking day when compared with the lowest earners.

Office of National Statistics, Adult drinking habits in Great Britain: 2005 to 2016

Alcohol is estimated to cause 3-5% of all absences from work; about 8 to 14 million lost working days in the UK each year.

Holtermann, S and Burchell, A Government Economic Service Working Party No 37 1981 DHSS

60% of employers reported problems due to alcohol misuse.

Alcohol Concern Survey

An Impact Assessment paper on minimum pricing calculated lost productivity due to alcohol in the UK at about £7.3bn per year (at 2009-10 prices).

Woodhouse, John (April 2017), 'Alcohol: Minimum pricing', House of Commons Library, p. 7, from Home Office (November 2012), 'Impact Assessment on a minimum unit price for alcohol', p. 5

The British Medical Association states that it is evident that individuals in employment are more likely to drink frequently compared to those who are unemployed, and that individuals in managerial and professional occupations are likely to drink more frequently than those in routine and manual occupations.

The British Medical Association (January 2017), 'Alcohol, drugs and the workplace - the role of medical professionals'

Some studies hint at a correlation between working hours and amount of alcohol consumed; one involving a sample of 300,000 subjects across Europe, Australia and North America identified that those who work more than 48 hours a week are 11% more likely to drink alcohol at risk levels than those working a standard week

British Medical Journal (January 2015), 'Long working hours are linked to risky alcohol consumption'

Heavy drinking during the working week contributes to the prevalence of alcohol-related health problems among workers, which in turn impacts upon the productivity of firms. Up to 17 million working days are lost each year in the UK because of alcohol-related sickness and the cost to employers of sick days due to alcohol is estimated at £1.7bn.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (June 2010), 'Business case: Alcohol-use disorders: preventing harmful drinking', p. 13

A 2007 report commissioned by Norwich Union Healthcare produced the following findings on alcohol-related workplace issues.

- A third of employees admitted to having been to work with a hangover
- 15% reported having been drunk at work
- 1 in 10 reported hangovers at work once a month; 1 in 20 once a week
- Work problems resulting from hangovers or being drunk at work included difficulty concentrating; reduced productivity; tiredness and mistakes
- The majority of employers (77%) interviewed identified alcohol as a major threat to employee wellbeing and a factor encouraging sickness absence.

Aviva (May 2008), 'UK employees admit that regular drinking affects their jobs'.

There are no precise figures of the number of workplace accidents attributable to alcohol, but the International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimated that up to 40% of accidents at work involve or are related to alcohol use.

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) (1996), 'Don't mix it: A guide for employers on alcohol at work', p. 1