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LOOKING AT ALL SIDES OF THE ISSUE

The economic impacts

NOTE: The information in this section is sourced from: National Institutes of Health (2017, 2018), The Minnesota RFW Program (2020), National Safety Council (2018, 2020), and SAMHSA (2004-2020).

A Substance Use Calculator for Employers:

The National Safety Council has developed a Substance Use Cost Calculator for Employers.

To use the calculator, click here.
<https://www.nsc.org/forms/substance-use-employer-calculator>



THE DOWNSIDE



Big picture: SUD equates to

\$400 billion a year in healthcare costs.

75%

of adults with untreated SUD are part of the US workforce

– and they miss around 50% more work days than their fellow employees.

- Heavy drinking alone is estimated to cost \$82 billion each year in lost productivity.
- People who misuse alcohol are 270% more likely to have an accident.
- **Opioid misuse has impacted 70% of employers.**



THE UPSIDE

- Each dollar spent on treatment and early intervention saves \$4 in healthcare costs and \$7 in law enforcement and criminal justice costs.
- Workers who get treatment for SUD save an average of \$3200 for their employers annually.
- Employees in recovery save around \$500 each year in health plan usage costs compared to those with untreated SUD.
- Employees who stay committed to recovery tend to stay as committed to their employer as their peers.
- Employees in recovery miss 5 days fewer each year than those not in recovery.

THE HUMAN COST

- Many of us have seen and know firsthand the human toll SUD can take. Motor vehicle crashes, legal trouble, domestic abuse, workplace accidents, health problems, and economic hardship are just a few of the symptoms.



- **Only 10% of people** with SUD are getting treatment for the condition – despite the fact that recovery is possible.

10% TREATED

90% UNTREATED

- Nationally there are **22+ million people in recovery** – slowly succeeding in creating healthier homes, lives, and workplaces.

22+ million people in recovery 

THE SOCIAL STRAIN

- Family instability is perhaps the most critical social cost of SUDs. Families often experience significant tension and conflict when an adult with SUD remains untreated, and the impact reverberates in the workplace.
- Other social effects include disability, mental health conditions, homelessness, incarceration, crime, and suicide.
- Last of all, people with untreated SUD tend to become isolated, depressed, and unable to reclaim their identity as a family member, friend, and coworker.

