



## Put In Your 2¢ Worth...

About 2¢ a drink yields \$44 million annually  
to reduce the impact of  
alcohol problems in Missouri.

### **Question:**

*The Missouri legislature is placing a high priority on “business climate” issues this year. What do we know about the impact of alcohol on business interests?*

### **Answer:**

Alcohol misuse and addiction have significant effects on cost of doing business, cost of health care, workers’ compensation injury claims, turnover rates, and workplace climate. Prevention, treatment and recovery programs have great potential for saving lives and money.

## **MISSOURI ALCOHOL IMPACT FACT #64**

- ❖ Major employers are taking a hard look at employees’ off-the-job drinking behavior as they try to control rising health care costs (Wall Street Journal, April 7, 2005).
- ❖ 40% of serious and fatal workplace accidents have alcohol and other drug involvement (Occupational Medicine).
- ❖ 38% of all workers’ compensation claims are related to alcohol and other drugs in the workplace (National Council on Compensation Insurance).
- ❖ Substance abusers file 300% - 400% more costly medical claims than employees who are drug-free (Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation).
- ❖ In a controlled study of 1,871 workers, “... individuals with higher alcohol consumption were more likely to have a workers’ compensation claim ... Individuals reporting a consumption of 10 to 14 drinks per week had a hazard of 1.30 (p=0.03, and those reporting 15 or more drinks per week had a hazard of 1.27 (p=0.05) compared with individuals reporting no drinks consumed per week.” (Ragland et al, “Alcohol Consumption and Incidence of Workers’ Compensation Claims: A 5-Year Prospective Study of Urban Transit Operators,” Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research, 26(9):138801394, September 2002.
- ❖ Presence of alcohol problems in the workforce was documented in a national survey, indicating that about 7.6% of full-time employees are heavy drinkers. About one-third of the heavy drinkers also used illegal drugs (Zhang, Huang and Brittingham, Worker Drug Use and Workplace Policies and Programs, Washington DC: SAMHSA, 1999.
- ❖ “A review of a wide range of published and unpublished evaluation research concludes that Employee Assistance Programs produce far more in savings than they require in costs. A series of evaluation studies indicated that the programs succeeded in returning substantial proportions of employees with alcohol problems to effective performance. “Roman, P.M. and Blum, T.C., The Workplace and Alcohol Problem Prevention. Washington, DC: NIAAA, 2002.

*For more information call one of the  
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