

# Business Under the Influence

What employees do after hours affects a company's bottom line - three times more fatal crashes involving impaired driving happen at night than during the day. Drivers between the ages of 21 and 44 - those of adult working age - are more likely than any other age group to be in fatal crashes whether the BAC was .08 or higher.

Use of alcohol also greatly increases the chance of all on- and off-the-job injuries. American businesses bear much of their cost in the higher premiums paid for employer-based health insurance tied to alcohol problems. And over time, heavy drinking contributes to expensive medical conditions including liver disease, stroke, and cancer, which ultimately effects employer health care costs.

## 100 EMPLOYEES

Consider the effects of alcohol on the operations and expenses of a typical company with 100 employees:

- Among employees and dependents, 21 people have drinking problems.
- Three extra work days will be lost each month due to sickness, injury, and absence related to problem drinking. These lost days will cost an employer an average of \$5,020 per year in wages and \$39,241 in alcohol-related health care costs.
- Two extra emergency room visits will cost \$2,383 plus \$5307 for each day the patient is in the hospital.

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