

Balanced Living

Hidden Costs of Addiction

Each year, alcohol and drug abuse costs American businesses approximately \$100 billion in lost productivity. And with healthcare rising since the late 1990s, most employers have been scrambling for ways to manage these costs and the underlying causes of these increases. The majority of employers are unaware that alcohol abuse is one of those factors. According to a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2000, almost half of all trauma and injury visits to hospital emergency rooms, and between 20 and 30 percent of all trips to the emergency room, are alcohol-related.

However, employers' primary costs related to alcohol are not for the treatment of the disease of addiction. Instead, they are direct health care costs for related injuries and health problems, and indirect costs for absenteeism, productivity, workplace injuries, workers compensation and disability claims. A study conducted by Drug Strategies in 1999 revealed that dependent drinkers cause 40 percent of alcohol-related absenteeism, tardiness and poor work quality.

Research indicates the majority of companies still fail to incorporate new knowledge of addiction as a brain disease, which must be treated at its physical root, into their coping mechanisms for employees with substance abuse problems. The most recent National Survey found that four out of five individuals stated that they would not seek help if they had an addiction issue. The reasons given for their hesitancy: the negative stigma of addiction; fear of getting fired; limited treatment options available; and an inability to miss 30, 60, or even 90 days of work while being treated.

It's clear that access to successful and comprehensive treatment for employees is the best way to begin to control the financial costs associated with alcohol and drug abuse. By investing more in such treatment options, employers can significantly lower their costs and improve the lives of their employees. In fact, substance abuse treatment is the most cost effective of all medical treatments. For every dollar spent on treatment, a company saves \$11.54 on other medical and social costs. This represents quite an impressive investment return, not to mention the immeasurable gains of human health and well-being. Like ExecuCare Addiction Recovery Center in Norcross, Georgia, it's time to start believing that what is good for people is good for business.

For more information about the services offered through ExecuCare ARC, including further information about the NTR treatment, please visit our website at www.execucarearc.com. To schedule a free and confidential consultation, please contact the center at (770) 817-0711.



Mike Sanders, ExecuCare Addiction Recovery Center's founder, has built a successful investment firm during the past 23 years. However, his long-time addiction to alcohol and more recent addiction to OxyContin and Xanax jeopardized his business and personal life with his wife and three kids. Mike sought treatment in January 2005. As a successful business owner and leader in the community, he searched for an alternative treatment to the typical long-term rehabilitation options. With assistance from his wife, he discovered Neurotransmitter Restoration (NTR), an amino acid treatment that effectively treated his addictions in the course of 10 days. More than two years later, Mike's investment firm continues to thrive; he is alcohol and drug free, and committed to making this unique treatment more broadly available to others. He opened the doors to ExecuCare Addiction Recovery Center in Norcross, Georgia, in September 2006.