

SUBSTANCE USE IN ALBERTA'S CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

ALCOHOL

Construction workers who used alcohol were more likely to use it in harmful or hazardous ways compared to other industries (e.g., use alcohol more frequently, consume more on one occasion, experience alcohol-related injuries).



- In 2009, construction workers had nearly identical rates of past-year drinking (74%) as the provincial average (73%).
- 13% of construction workers who used alcohol were at medium risk of experiencing harm to themselves or to others (provincial average: 6%).
- 22% of construction workers reported being invited for a drink by their supervisor or manager (provincial average: 12%).
- Compared to other industries, construction workers were almost twice as likely to report that the use of alcohol had a moderate or extremely serious impact on their co-workers' performance.

TOBACCO

A higher percentage of Alberta's construction workers used tobacco and they smoked more cigarettes per day than Alberta's average.

- In 2009, 34% of construction workers reported tobacco use in the past 12 months (provincial average: 22%).
- 12% of smokers reported heavy use, 20+ cigarettes per day (provincial average: 5%).
- 10% of smokers reported moderate use, 11-19 cigarettes per day (provincial average: 5%).
- Construction workers were less likely to report that their workplace had a formal tobacco policy (62%) compared to the provincial average (71%).



ILLICIT DRUGS

A higher percentage of construction workers used illicit drugs during the past year and they were more likely to be at moderate to high risk of experiencing problems related to their use compared to the provincial average.



- In 2009, 16% of construction workers reported using illicit drugs in the past 12 months (provincial average: 7%).
- 8% of construction workers were at moderate to high risk of experiencing problems related to their drug use (provincial average: 1%).
- Construction workers were more likely to report that street drug use was socially acceptable with their co-workers (6%) than the average (3%).

Source: Alberta Health Services, Addiction and Mental Health (2016). *Addiction and mental health in Alberta's construction industry: Final technical report*. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada: Author.

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