

Data Spotlight

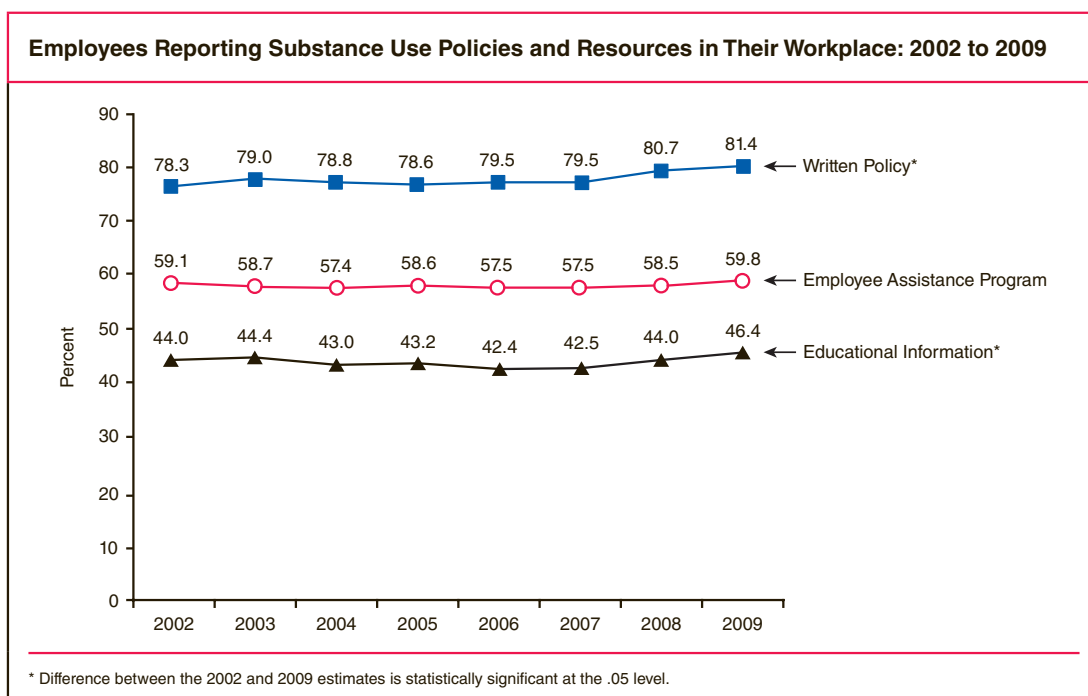
National Survey on Drug Use and Health

July 14, 2011

Three in Five Employees Have Access to Employee Assistance Programs for Substance Use Disorders

Substance use disorders can negatively impact the workplace by increasing the risk for workplace accidents and absenteeism, and by adding to the workload of employees who do not have such disorders.¹ Employers can implement employee assistance programs (EAPs) to help promote the health and well-being of their employees. Workplace programs can be offered to employees and family members facing a variety of personal issues, including substance use disorders.

As part of the National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUHs), respondents aged 15 or older who worked any number of hours in the past week report on the substance use policies and programs at their workplace. In 2009, the majority of workers (81.4 percent) reported having a written policy about employee use of alcohol or drugs in their workplace, and three in five employees (59.8 percent) reported having an EAP available for individuals with alcohol- or drug-related problems (Figure). The percentages of employees reporting substance use policies in their workplace and receiving educational information both have increased since 2002, whereas the proportion of workers reporting EAPs for substance use disorders has remained stable. For more information about workplace-based strategies to prevent substance abuse, please visit <http://workplace.samhsa.gov/>.



¹ Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. (2008). *What you need to know about the cost of substance abuse* (Issue Brief #7 for Employers). Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Source: The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) is an annual survey sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The survey collects data by administering questionnaires to a representative sample of the population through face-to-face interviews at their places of residence.

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