

Workplaces and Substance Use

Construction Industry



USE & PERCEPTIONS

“ Our best [option] is prevention. If I could do that every day before entering the construction site, I would. — Study participant ”

Substance use among people working in safety-sensitive* (SS) and non-safety-sensitive* (NSS) positions may pose health, safety and productivity risks.

About **3 in 10** (33%) people in SS positions



nearly **2 in 10** (18%) people in NSS positions

and



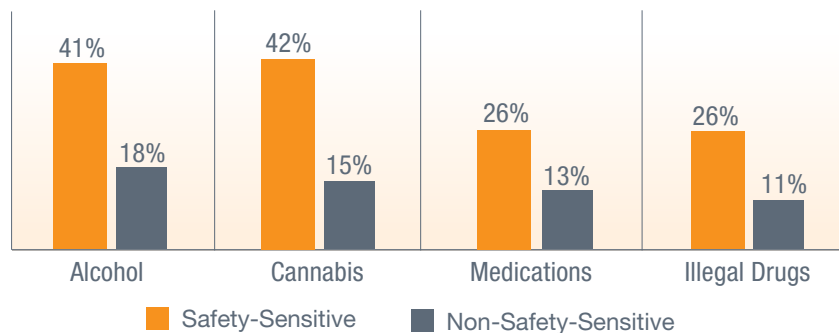
reported consuming **alcohol or drugs 2 hours before or during work**, or were hungover or felt high at work.

A lot of these guys have injuries, chronic pain ... and it's a way for them to actually work. You talk to guys, and the cannabis helps manage their pain.

— Study participant

Construction workers and **managers in SS positions** are more likely to say substance use is an issue at their workplaces compared with **those working in NSS positions**.

Reported thinking substance use was an issue at their workplace



Some businesses have improved approaches to managing substance use risks, such as developing comprehensive policies, training staff, offering accommodations, fostering peer support programs, and setting up mental and substance use health supports.

Contact us at workplace@ccsa.ca for training or for more information and resources such as our [trades toolkit](#).

Background: The Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction conducted a national study about workplace policies and practices related to substance use and working in various industries. The information presented here is from construction employees and managers who participated in a survey and focus groups, and individuals affected by substance use.

Suggested citation: Meister, S., Barker, B., Dassieu, L., Wood, S., Beirness, D., & Cragg, S. (2025). *Substance use and the workplace — use and perceptions: Construction industry* [Infographic]. Ottawa, Ont.: Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction.

*Safety-sensitive positions pose potential physical risk to self, co-workers, the public or the environment (e.g., heavy equipment operators, medical practitioners); and non-safety-sensitive pose low or no risks (e.g., office staff, retail clerk).