

# Workplaces and Substance Use

Oil & Gas, Forestry, and Mining Industries



USE & PERCEPTIONS

“ Too many companies ignore the problem of employees on drugs ... as if you ignore it, it will go away. — Study participant ”

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



### OIL & GAS

2 in 10 (23%) SS positions  
1 in 10 (11%) NSS positions



### FORESTRY

5 in 10 (49%) SS positions  
1 in 10 (11%) NSS positions<sup>1</sup>



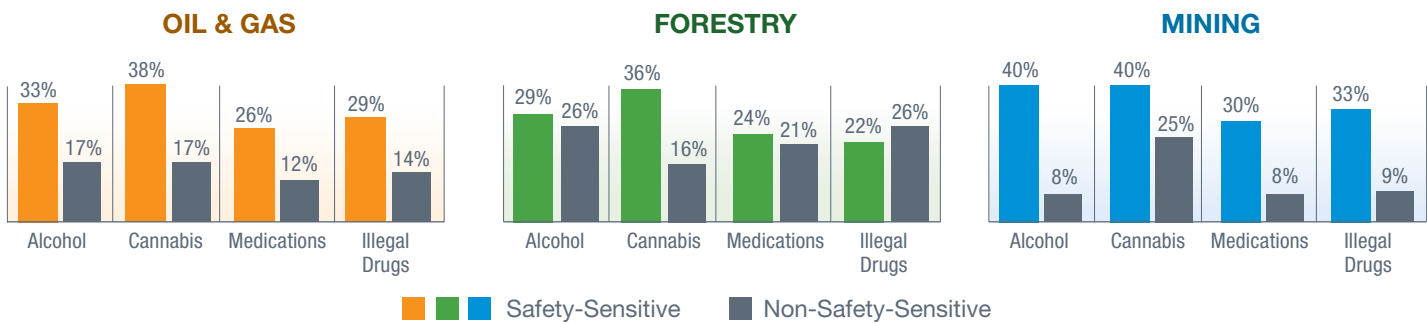
### MINING

5 in 10 (47%) SS positions  
2 in 10 (17%) NSS positions<sup>1</sup>

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

People working in SS positions were more likely to report thinking that substance use is an issue at their workplace, compared with those working in NSS positions.

Reported thinking that substance use is an issue at their workplace



■ Safety-Sensitive ■ Non-Safety-Sensitive



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](mailto: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 on workplace policies and practices related to substance use with workers and managers from various industries. The information presented here is from 295 workers and managers from the oil and gas, forestry, and mining industries 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: Oil and gas, forestry, and mining industries* [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).

<sup>1</sup> Interpret with caution due to small sample sizes