Depression in the workplace in the US

Workplace depression is a major issue across different cultures and economies, with devastating consequences.

Lifetime prevalence of depression in the US: 16.6% or 53 million¹,²

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. Available at: www.census.gov/popclock/ Last accessed: August 2016
² Kessler et al. Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences. 2015;24(03):210–226

Depression costs the US more than US$91 billion in lost productivity (absence from work, and attending work while unwell)¹

Almost 50% of US employees are highly educated
Highly educated employees with depression are likely to...
• Work in a highly demanding job and therefore be severely impacted by the cognitive symptoms of depression
• Manage others so the impact of their depression has wider consequences


Depression-related presenteeism* costs the US $84.7 billion¹

*attending work while unwell

The cognitive symptoms of depression, for instance difficulties in concentrating, making decisions and remembering, are present up to 94% of the time during an episode of depression¹, causing significant impairment in work function and productivity²

¹ Conradi HJ et al. Psychological Medicine. 2011;41:1165–1174;
² Greer TL et al. CNS Drugs. 2010;24(4):267–284

US employees are likely to keep working during an episode of depression, impacting their productivity and performance at work

McIntyre RS et al. Compr Psychiatry. 2015; 56:279–82

For more information on the IDEA Survey as well as the LSE Health and Social Care research centre, visit the centre’s blog: http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/healthandsocialcare/
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