Workplace perceptions of opioid use, overdose and naloxone

NSC surveyed 500 employers and 800 employees in January 2024 and learned:

of the employee
respondents had personal
experience with substance use
disorder, meaning themselves,
family or friends are either
currently experiencing or
in recovery.

Despite employer recognition that opioid use* should be treated like a chronic health condition, punitive policies and biases continue

of employers
feel that opioid use should be treated like a chronic health condition

of employers
view opioid use
as a justifiable
reason to fire an
employee

50%
of employers
view opioid use
as a personal or
moral failure

While half of employers indicated they had naloxone, significant gaps remain to being fully stocked and ready to respond



50% of employers report currently stocking naloxone and **27%** are considering stocking naloxone



Only **28%** of worksites report being fully stocked



Overdose kits were the least likely item to be reported as a component of on-site safety provisions

Employers want to support employees struggling with substance use, but few indicate adoption of recovery supportive programs



Only 24% of employers have adopted recovery-ready policies but 86% agree that employers should support employees struggling with substance use



79% of employees agree that they would be more likely to work for an employerthat provides resources for substance use to employees

Be prepared for an opioid overdose by obtaining naloxone for your workplace, training employees how to respond to an opioid overdose emergency and creating stigma-free, recovery supportive workplaces.

Visit nsc.org/respondready for full survey results and methodology.

