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 million**


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

More than the total annual US budget for education

**US$91b**
Lost Productivity

**US$70.7b**
US Education Budget

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 depression, causing significant impairment in work function and productivity


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 billion**

(*attending work while unwell)

Almost **x8** higher than Ford Motor Company’s 2015 pre-tax profit, one of the US’ leading companies

**Presenteeism: US$84.7b**
Ford Motor Company

**Absenteeism: US$6b**

**US$91b**
Lost Productivity

**US$70.7b**
US Education Budget

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

Cognitive symptoms are a crucial factor affecting workplace performance in people with depression

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

Days taken off work during an episode of depression


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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