

# Detection methods of the drug-addiction and alcoholism treatment programme of the Spanish National Railway Company (RENFE)

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## KEY WORDS

Employee assistance programmes; occupational health; screening; alcohol; drugs; trade unions; working population

## SUMMARY

**Background:** *Social problems in enterprises need to be approached by all groups involved in order to achieve a satisfactory result. With regard to Occupational Health and, specifically, drug-addiction, the groups concerned are Occupational Health Services, Trade Unionists and Managers.* **Objectives:** *To analyse the involvement of the social groups (Occupational Health Service, Management and Trade Unions) in relation to the detection of workers suffering from drug-addiction and/or alcoholism.* **Methods:** *During the first eight years of implementation (1990-1997) of the Drug-Addiction and Alcoholism Treatment Programme of the Spanish National Railway Company (RENFE), a total of 477 workers consuming alcohol and drugs were detected and treated under the Programme (1.1% prevalence), 465 men (97.5%) and 12 women (2.5%), with an average age of 39.8 years.* **Results:** *The subjects were detected by occupational physicians (55.4%), occupational psychologists (2.9%), managers (11.3%), trade unionists (19.5%), via self-referral (9.4%) and by other means (1.5%).* **Conclusions:** *The results demonstrate the efficiency and the profitability to the company of prevention and treatment interventions and the need for the coordination of managers, trade unions and occupational health services.*