The Science of Fatigue, and Fatigue Management 8 February 2011

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Work time and travel time were the two activities related to less sleep



Adequate sleep is essential for alertness and effective performance

Effective behavior

- Mentally fast and accurate
- Stable attention and good focus
- Good memory (recall & working)
- Sound executive decision making
- New insights & creative solutions
- Less risky and risk taking





- Unreliable memory
- Weak executive decision making
- Fewer insights/creative solutions
- More risky and risk taking

The more sleep is restricted, the greater the deficits in performance

Van Dongen et al. SLEEP (2003) -

Increased lapses in sustained attention performance

Belenky et al. J Sleep Res (2003)



As performance deficits increased with restricted sleep, self awareness of the deficits was less accurate

Healthy sleeprestricted adults cannot accurately judge their fitness to perform

Results summarized from Van Dongen et al. *SLEEP* (2003) Slide from Prof. David F. Dinges, PhD



Consecutive days of sleep restriction

Performance lapses from restricted sleep require longer sleep to recover



Results summarized from Banks et al. SLEEP (2010)

- Prevention (AVAILABLE NOW)
 - Work schedules that avoid acute and cumulative sleep loss
 - Treatment of sleep disorders (e.g., Sleep Apnea, Shift Work Disorder)

Intervention (NOT ADEQUATE)

Power naps

Caffeine

- Prediction (IN DEVELOPMENT)
 - Mathematical model analysis of fatiguing schedules
 - Identifying those most vulnerable to sleep loss

- Detection (IN DEVELOPMENT)
 - Monitoring sleep loss with wrist actigraphy output
 - Performance feedback from fatigue detection technology