

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG TREATMENT

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ'S

Why should I care?

Because it affects you!

It's expensive!

- ✓ Violence, domestic violence, property crimes, prison expenses and court costs tax the system.
- ✓ Productivity, unemployment and poverty remain unchecked.

It's unhealthy for families!

- ✓ Families and communities suffer with child abuse and neglect
- ✓ Foster care and welfare costs are higher, child support is lost.

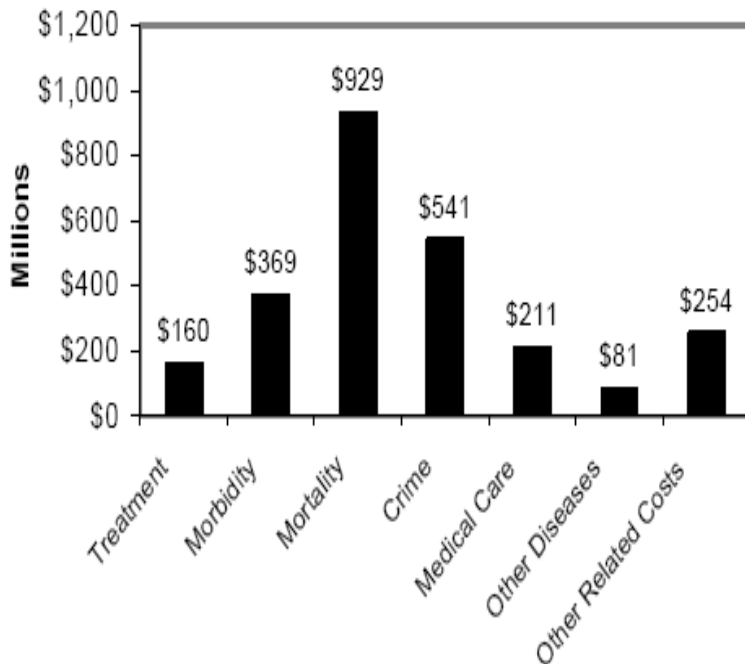
It's Unhealthy for Everyone!

- ✓ More emergency room visits and higher healthcare costs.
- ✓ Blood borne diseases, such as HIV and Hepatitis C are spread more rapidly.



What does it cost?

Figure A: Economic Costs of Drug and Alcohol Abuse in Washington, 1996



A 1996 study conservatively estimated the economic impact of alcohol and other drug abuse.

- Premature death (\$929 million);
- Crime (\$541 million);
- Reduced productivity (\$369 million);
- Other related costs (associated mostly with property damage from motor vehicle accidents; \$254 million);
- Medical care (\$211 million);
- Treatment (\$160 million); and
- Other diseases (costs of AIDS and Hepatitis B associated with injection drug use, and fetal alcohol syndrome; \$81 million).

Wickizer, Thomas M. The Economic Costs of Drug and Alcohol Abuse in Washington State, 1996. Olympia, WA: Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services. March, 1999. vii-viii, 49.

\$1 spent on treatment saves \$7 in criminal justice costs, if healthcare costs are included treatment saves \$12.

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

For every \$1 spent by states



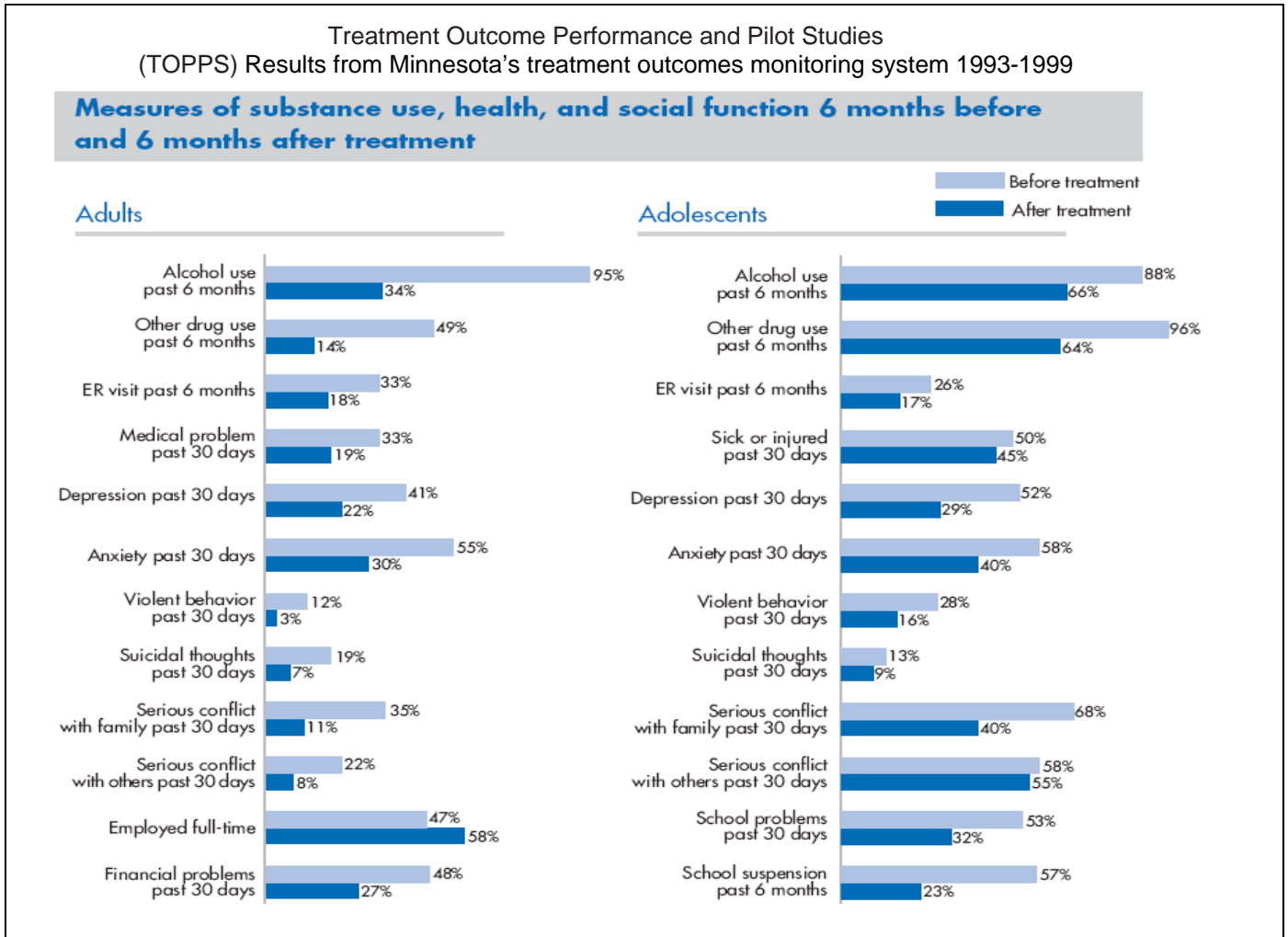
96 cents went to “shoveling up the wreckage of substance abuse and addiction” and only 4 cents were used to prevent and treat it.

(SAMHSA—CSAT, 2001).



Does treatment work?

Treatment Completion Rates in Washington State Range from 40-60%.



How can I help?

- If you know someone who has a substance abuse problem, talk to them.
- Discuss the personal and societal costs of addiction.
- Educate the community about the benefits treatment.
- Celebrate People in Recovery
- Educate community leaders that addiction is a treatable disorder
- Help others understand the “Myths of Addiction”
- Advocate for funding to prevent and treat addiction.

Treatment works!!!
Spread the word!
Talk about it!



For more information, check out the Whatcom County Health Department website at:
http://www.whatcomcounty.us/health/human/substance_abuse/index.jsp

PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND HEALTHIER WASHINGTON