

Effectiveness

- **Addictions treatment effectiveness ranges from 40 – 80 percent—depending on numerous variables.**
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. (February 2001). Key Indicators for Policy Update, Substance Abuse The Nation's Number One Health Problem. Princeton New Jersey.
- **The conclusion that addictions treatment is effective is demonstrated in over 600 published scientific papers.**
Marwick, C. (1998). Physician Leadership on National Drug Policy Finds Addiction Treatment Works. Journal of the American Medical Association, 279(15), 1149-1150.
- **Relapse rates for treatment of alcohol, opioids and cocaine are less than those for hypertension and asthma, and equivalent to those of diabetes—all chronic conditions.**
O'Brien, C.P., & McLellan, A.T. (1996). Myths about the Treatment of Addiction. The Lancet, 347, 237-240.
- **Compliance rates for treatment of alcohol, opioids, and cocaine are greater than compliance rates for hypertension and asthma.**
O'Brien, C.P., & McLellan, A.T. (1996). Myths about the Treatment of Addiction. The Lancet, 347, 237-240.
- **The majority (69%) of patients who had medical conditions related to their addiction, and who received both medical care and addictions treatment were abstinent six months after leaving treatment.**
Weisner, C., Mertens, J., Parthasarathy, S., Moore, C., & Lu, Y. (2001). Integrating Primary Medical Care with Addiction Treatment, A Randomized Controlled Trial. Journal of the American Medical Association, 286(14), 1715-1723.

Cost / Cost-Offsets

- **Recent cost benefit studies consistently find that benefits to society (i.e., decreased crime, improved health, increased employment, increased overall social functioning) are greater than the costs of addictions treatment.**
Harwood, H. (2002). Cost Effectiveness and Cost Benefit Analysis of Substance Abuse Treatment: Literature Review and Annotated Bibliography. Presentation at IRETA February 20, 2003.
- **Addictions treatment has been shown to cut drug use in half, reduce crime by 80 percent and reduce arrests up to 64 percent.**
Office of Evaluation, Scientific Analysis and Synthesis, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration. (1997) The National Treatment Improvement Evaluation Study (NTIES).
- **For every additional dollar invested in addictions treatment, the taxpayer saves at least \$7.46 in costs to society (including the cost of incarceration).**
Rydell, C.P. & Everingham, S.S. (1994) Controlling Cocaine Supply Versus Demand Programs. RAND Drug Policy Research Center. Santa Monica, CA.
- **When adding the savings to healthcare, for every \$1 dollar spent in addictions treatment, society benefits by greater than \$12.**
National Institute on Drug Addiction, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health. (1999). Principles of Drug Addiction.
- **The cost of addictions treatment is 15 times less than the cost of incarcerating a person for a drug-related crime.**
PLNDP and Join Together (January 2000). A Physician's Guide on How to Advocate for More Effective National and State Drug Policies.
- **For every dollar (\$1) the United States Government spends on addictions treatment it saves \$7.00 to \$25.00 in other costs.**
Substance Abuse, Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. (2002). Facts in a Flash ATTC network internal document.
- **Commercial insurance gets a four-to-one return on its coverage of addiction treatment.**
Pringle, J. (March 4, 2003). Supporting the Field with Evidence and Logic Part II. Presentation at the Pennsylvania Practice Improvement Collaborative Steering Committee Meeting. State College, Pa.

Treatment Gap

- **The overwhelming majority of persons who need addictions treatment (over 80%) do not receive treatment.**
Knight, J.R., Wechsler, H., Meichun, K., Seibring, M., Weitzman, E.R., & Schuckit, M.A., (2002). Alcohol Abuse and Dependency among US College Students. Journal of Studies on Alcohol, 63(3), 263-70.