

# Best Return on Investment (ROI): Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment

**Tough economic times require legislators to maximize the use of taxpayer dollars. Funding behavioral health services is one of the most effective investments of public dollars. Here's why:**

**Treatment saves taxpayers money.**

<b>Treatment</b>	<b>No Treatment</b>
Average crisis stabilization bed cost per day \$292	Average Florida emergency room cost per visit \$2,887
Average detox cost per day \$205	Average hospital cost per day \$2,000
Average annual substance abuse treatment cost for an adult \$2,400	Average prison cost for a drug offender \$55,000
Average annual mental health treatment cost for an adult \$1,551	Average state hospital cost \$112,000

**Treatment works.**

- ✓ It is estimated that the economic benefits of expanded diagnosis and treatment of depression has a ROI of \$7 for every \$1 invested.
- ✓ \$1 invested in treatment for alcohol and other drug-related problems saves taxpayers \$7.14 in future costs.
- ✓ 93% of offenders who complete community drug treatment do not re-offend. One percent change equals \$8 million over three years.
- ✓ Prevention and treatment result in safer communities. Orange County's mental health diversion program has saved law enforcement \$2.2 million over seven years by reducing or eliminating time spent at emergency rooms.

**Treatment supports jobs and local economies.**

- ✓ Community mental health and substance abuse agencies provide over 50,000 private sector jobs.
- ✓ Treatment gets people back to work – 69% of adults are employed post treatment.
- ✓ Over 1,490 vendors supply community treatment companies.

**Maintain Funding for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment**

Disabilities Rights Florida • Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association • Florida Council for Community Mental Health • Florida Peer Network • NAMI Florida • Florida Partners In Crisis

## More Facts About the Benefits of Treatment

- ✓ The economic impact in Florida of alcohol and drug abuse is \$43.7 billion each year. (The Price Florida Pays for Drug and Alcohol Abuse, 2009)
- ✓ Untreated and mistreated mental illness costs the United States \$105 billion in lost productivity and \$8 billion in crime and welfare expenditures each year. A 5.5% increase in spending by businesses and government on mental health treatment could cut these costs by half. (National Mental Health Association, 2001)
- ✓ Treatment success rates for such disorders as schizophrenia (60%), depression (80% percent) and substance abuse disorders (60%) surpass those of other medical conditions such as heart disease (45-50%) and other chronic illnesses. (National Institute of Mental Health, 2004)
- ✓ Individuals with mental illnesses are four times more likely to die from treatable illnesses than other individuals and 58 times more likely to die before the age of 50 (Disability Rights Commission, 2005)
- ✓ For every \$1 invested in mental health treatment, \$3.68 is saved in reduced criminal activity and hospitalizations. (The "SCOPE" Mental Health Study Group Report)
- ✓ One study in Texas found that providing substance abuse treatment would give the state a ROI of \$2.26. The most interesting statistic was a projection about cuts made in the last decade. "If the state had stuck to its 2000 budget for mental health and substance abuse treatment, Texas would be earning a 170% ROI on the money or netting \$32.76 today for every dollar spent. (Peter Earley, 2010)
- ✓ Sixteen percent of people in jails and prisons suffer from a serious mental illness. (NIMH, 2008)
- ✓ Between 50% and 75% of youth in juvenile justice facilities suffer from a diagnosable mental health disorder and frequently do not receive counseling, treatment or support. (NIMH, 2008)
- ✓ It is estimated that at least 25% of homeless people suffer from serious mental illness. (NIMH, 2008)
- ✓ Twenty-three percent (23%) of parents and caregivers of children with mental illness were forced by state regulations to consider relinquishing custody of their child in order to access mental health services and 20% actually did so. (NIMH, 2008)
- ✓ Of adults using homeless services, 31% report having a mental illness and/or a substance abuse condition. (Burt, 2001)

INVESTMENT IN TREATMENT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO  
AND SAVES \$\$\$