

Addiction Prevention: Outcomes Support a Healthy Future



Prevention Carries the Message

Communities across Illinois are developing prevention strategies and innovative approaches to educate youth, their parents, businesses, and local officials about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. The key to successful prevention strategies is flexibility. **One size does not fit all. A local needs assessment drives the most successful community outcomes.**

Underage drinking, binge drinking, use of tobacco products, use of illegal drugs, and other negative life choices can result in traffic crashes, violent crimes, soaring medical costs, and other repercussions. According to 2011 data provided by the Illinois Department of Human Services, more than 1100 **evidence based** prevention programs in Illinois provide the “front line” of defense in fighting these consequences. The impacts of these programs reach far and wide:

- More than 140,400 people have been served by population based strategies.
- More than 90,000 youth have been served by individual strategies.
- **88% somewhat or strongly disapprove of someone their age smoking.**
- **83% somewhat or strongly disapprove of someone using marijuana.**
- **86% somewhat or strongly disapprove of someone their age drinking 1 or 2 drinks a day.**

A Snapshot of Illinois Youth

Every two years, the Illinois Youth Survey provides current data on substance usage rates of youth in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12. “Gateway” drug findings from the most recent survey were:

- **Alcohol is the number one drug for Illinois youth, with usage rates higher than the national average.**
- **Marijuana use is higher than the national average.**
- Cigarette use is similar to the national average.
- Students using drugs or alcohol are up to **five times more likely to drop out of school.**
- Nearly 10,000 Illinois residents die annually from accidental injuries, and **40% of those are related to use of alcohol!**

The Impact of Reducing Addiction Prevention Funding

- **Effective school-based programs can save an average of \$18 per \$1 spent.** This equates to a net savings of \$3,757 per youth served. **State and local governments would save \$1.3 billion** within 2 years. (SAMHSA, 2002)
- Environmental prevention strategies such as driving curfews for youth, 21 legal drinking age, alcohol server training and enforcement of serving intoxicated patrons laws **save taxpayers anywhere from \$2.60 to \$84 per dollar spent on the strategy.** (SAMHSA, 2002)
- Savings from youth development through integrated family or community and school programs range up to **\$35 per dollar spent on proven effective programs.** (SAMHSA, 2002)
- **The cost savings from helping just one high-risk youth graduate from high-school, avoid heavy drug use and not engage in crime would range between \$1.7 and \$2.3 million dollars.** (Cohen, M., 1998)

ILLINOIS CANNOT AFFORD TO REDUCE ADDICTION PREVENTION FUNDING!



Illinois Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Association
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