



# Addiction Treatment is Effective, Changes Lives and Saves Dollars

## Addiction Treatment is Effective

Research substantiates **positive treatment outcomes** that encourage **stable families and communities, save taxpayer dollars, and save lives**. A 2005 study of more than 800 Illinois adults and a 2009 study of more than 700 adolescent clients in Illinois found that 12 months post treatment:

- **adults reported a 58% decrease** and **adolescents reported a 42% decrease** in drug and alcohol use,
- **adults reported a 56% decrease** in the number of days experiencing emotional or behavioral problems,
- **adolescents reported a 36% decrease** in the number of days experiencing emotional or behavioral problems,
- **adults reported a 58% decrease** in the number of days homeless,
- **adults reported a 61% decrease** in violent and illegal behavior,
- **adolescents reported a 46% decrease** in violent and illegal behavior, and
- **adults reported a 69% INCREASE** in vocational engagement. *(Chestnut Health Systems, 2005 and 2009)*

## Addiction Treatment Decreases Crime

- A 2006 study of individuals completing Illinois' Sheridan Reentry Prison program, which couples in-prison treatment with post-release community treatment, were **21% less likely to be re-arrested for a new crime** and **44% less likely to return to prison** than those in the comparison group. *(Olson et al, 2006)*
- A seminal, congressionally mandated treatment effectiveness study found that, comparing 1 year prior treatment to 1 year post treatment, the percentage of clients engaged in **drug selling decreased 78%**, **shoplifting decreased 81%**, and criminal **arrests decreased 65%**. *(SAMHSA, 1997)*
- For every 1,000 people who receive supervised treatment in the community as an alternative to prison, the state saves an estimated \$20 million. **On average, a year of supervised community-based drug treatment costs less than \$5,000. A year of prison costs approximately \$25,000.** *(TASC, 2007; IDOC, 2009)*

## Addiction Treatment Saves Dollars

**Treatment supports significant cost savings in other systems.** Appropriate treatment results in:

- **Fewer emergency room visits and hospital stays,**
- Fewer absences from school or employment,
- **Reduced impacts in the criminal justice system,**
- More intact families; and, **fewer children in foster care.**

Illinois annually spends nearly \$3 billion, **12% of the state budget**, dealing with consequences of untreated addiction while **less than one-tenth of 1%** of all state spending is dedicated to addiction healthcare services. **Every \$1 cut from addiction treatment will cost Illinois \$7 in corrections, child welfare, public health, healthcare and family services, education, and other areas.** *(RWJF, 2005)*

**Funding a comprehensive addiction treatment system saves lives AND saves dollars!**



Illinois Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Association

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