

CLOSING THE  
ALCOHOL  
& DRUG  
TREATMENT  
GAP

# On Drugs, Crime & Dollars



Presented to

The Committee  
on Public Defense

Dennis Braddock, Secretary  
Washington State Department of  
Social and Health Services

NOVEMBER 23, 2004

AGENDA 2005

## Drugs, Crime & Dollars

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### Our topic today . . .

#### Costs

- ▶ The financial burden of substance abuse on our criminal justice and medical systems

#### Crime

- ▶ Measures of criminal activity among the substance abusing population

#### Treatment effects

- ▶ Savings we can associate with drug and alcohol treatment

. . . and strategies underway



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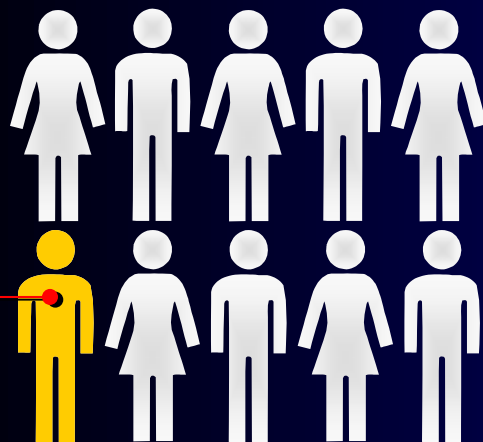
# We know . . . The bill keeps going up

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## Drugs, Crime & Dollars

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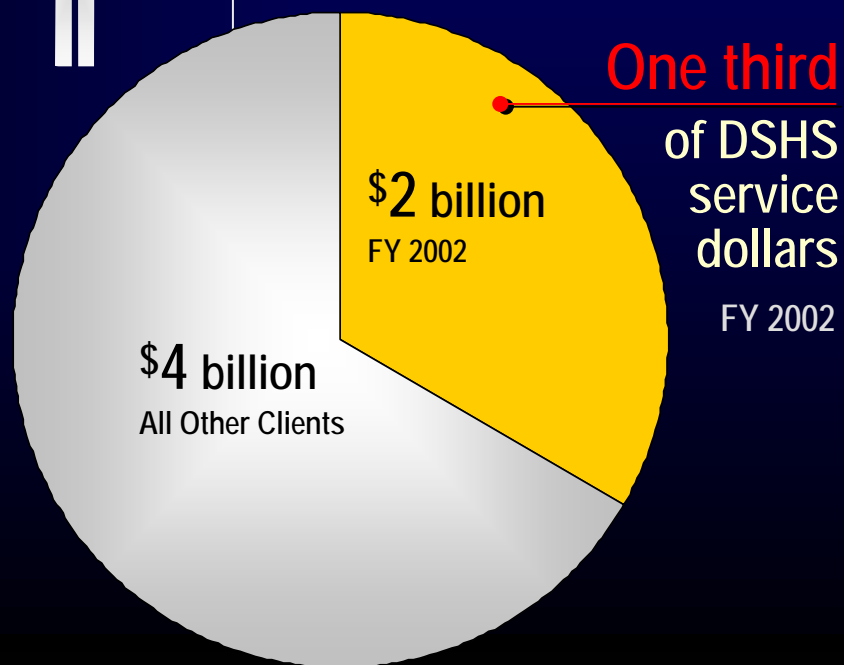
### Working Age Disabled



**10 percent**  
of our clients

▲ The 144,000 working-age disabled represent **10 percent** of our clients, but they account for **a third of our budget**

- ▲ Clients age 18 to 64
- ▲ Disabled Medicaid and General Assistance clients
- ▲ Excludes children, elderly, non-disabled adults

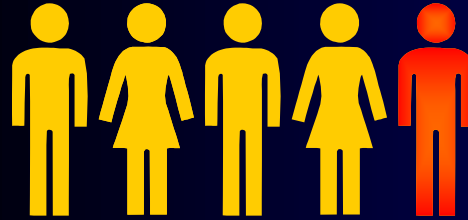


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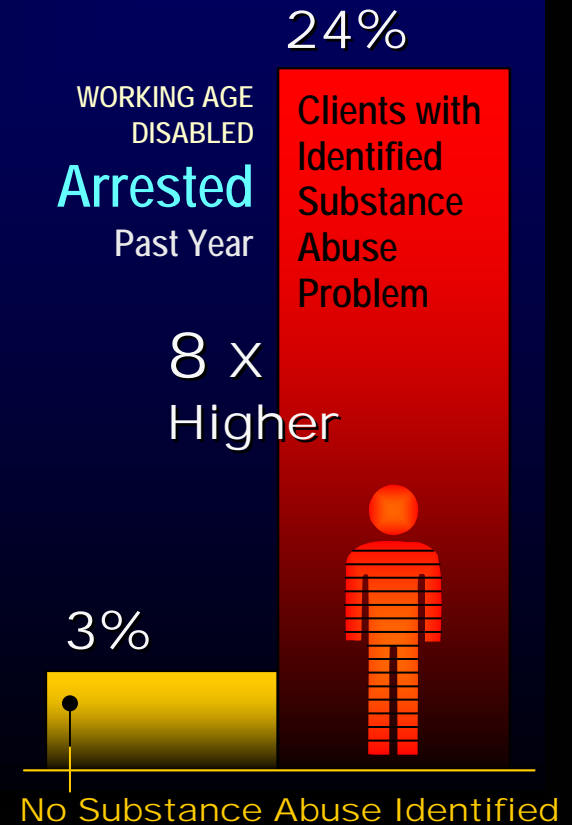
### Substance Abuse Problems



1 in 5 working age disabled clients – 28,000 people – have a substance abuse problem indicated by:

- ▲ Diagnosis of substance abuse, dependence, or psychosis in medical claims
- ▲ Drug-related arrest
- ▲ Received services from the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse

▲ Substance abusing clients have **alarming arrest rates**



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## Substance Abusing Clients

Past year arrests  
= 11,000

Number of  
arrests in  
FY 02

Tip of the  
ICEBERG

Ten-year arrests  
= 90,000

Number of arrests FY 1993-2002



▲ Substance abusing clients have **alarming arrest rates**

WORKING AGE  
DISABLED  
**Arrested**  
Past Year

24%

Clients with  
Identified  
Substance  
Abuse  
Problem

8 x  
Higher

3%

No Substance Abuse Identified

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## We know . . . The bill keeps going up

### Substance Abusing Clients

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### THE CRIMES

Drug related	26%
Theft, burglary, robbery, fraud	15%
Assault, harassment	12%
Parole, contempt, related	10%
Driving, vehicle license, related	9%
Trespass, mischief, conduct	6%
Domestic violence, support order	4%
Sex	2%
Weapons	1%
Other	15%

We know . . . The bill keeps going up



Every year the arrested individuals add an estimated \$84 million in criminal justice and victim costs



Criminal Justice costs include:

- Police, sheriff
  - Local jail
- Courts, prosecution
  - Corrections
- Community supervision

Victim costs include:

- Monetary costs
- Quality of life



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**Drugs, Crime  
 & Dollars**

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The Seattle Times Company

NWclassifieds | NWsource | seattletimes.com



50°F

5-day forecast

**The Seattle Times**



MONDAY October 11, 2004

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... 131 trips  
 to the hospital emergency room  
 last year...

**Taxpayers footing bill for excessive use of ERs**

By **Kyung M. Song**

**THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW.COM**

Current Weather: Freezing Fog, 31

Tuesday, October 26, 2004

**Drug abusers abusing ERs**

Carla K. Johnson  
 Staff writer

They float from emergency room to emergency room to get narcotics such as Darvon, Oxycontin and Vicodin. And taxpayers pay the bill. The Medicaid clients who are the heaviest users of emergency rooms typically are mentally ill, substance abusers or both, a recent Washington state report shows.

Their cost to the system is less than 1 percent of the \$8 billion annual budget for Washington state Medicaid program for the poor. But they represent mentally ill, substance abusers or both, state officials say.

First, the problem: State analysts looked at the top 198 Medicaid users of emergency rooms in Washington. Each of these "frequent fliers" visited ERs more than 30 times in fiscal year 2002. Ninety-nine percent of them took home prescriptions for pain pills. The average number of prescriptions over the year was 42 per client.

... **Darvon, Oxycontin,  
 and Vicodin.**

1 trips to the hospital emergency room  
 average.  
 ne and migraines.  
 s: more than \$21,000. And that doesn't



BETTY UDESEN / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Nurse Practitioner Janet Stein said "any patient does better when they're known and cared about."

# Where we're paying the cost now . . .

## The Treatment Effect on Risk of Death

BASELINE = Risk of death for clients

who need but  
do not receive  
substance abuse treatment

Controlled for:

- Age
- Gender
- Race/ethnicity
- Baseline health

Risk of death is  
57% lower for  
persons in need who  
receive treatment

- 57%



# Where we're paying the cost now . . .

## Crime in Our Communities

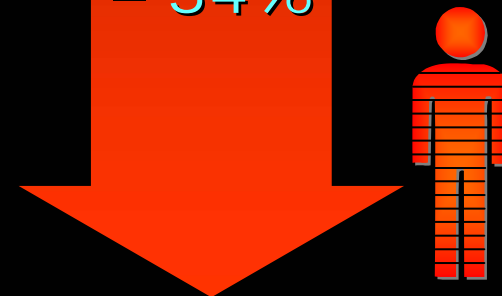
Treatment . . . Reduces  
the risk of an arrest by

- 16%



Treatment . . . Reduces  
the risk of a felony  
conviction by

- 34%



# Drugs, Crime & Dollars

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## The Math

GROSS OFFSET = \$414  
 CD Treatment Cost = \$162  
**NET OFFSET = \$252**  
 Per Person Per Month

# Where we're paying the cost now . . .

## Emergency Room Costs

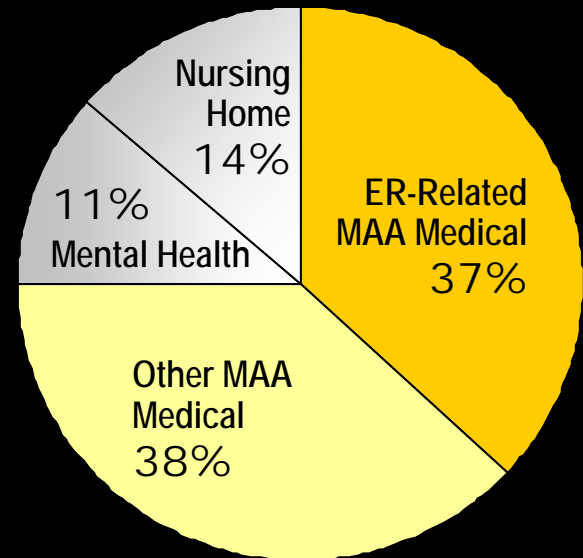
### Treatment Effect

Per Person Per Month



And . . . there's more to be saved in other parts of the DSHS budget

Gross Offset = \$414  
Per Person Per Month



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## Promising strategies . . .

### Closing the Treatment Gap

- ▶ Aimed at reducing the burden of substance abuse on our criminal justice, medical and family systems

### Medicaid Integration Partnership

- ▶ Pilot project designed to integrate services for aged, blind, disabled clients (Snohomish County)

### WASBIRT

- ▶ Washington Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatment
- ▶ Working in local hospital emergency rooms to identify persons with substance abuse problems

