



Mental Illness and Substance Abuse — Prevalence

- Mental illness is the second leading cause of disability in the U.S., yet only seven percent of healthcare expenditures are designated for mental health disorders
- More than 65 percent of those with a lifetime substance dependence disorder have at least one lifetime mental disorder, and 51 percent of those with at least one lifetime mental disorder have at least one lifetime substance dependence disorder

Education/Employment

- Nearly 70 percent of unemployed adults with severe mental illness want to work
- Only 60 percent of youth with mental illnesses are employed a year after leaving high school and less than ten percent move on to post-secondary education

Homelessness

- Supportive housing for people with mental illness reduced emergency room visits 57 percent, hospitalizations by 58 percent, detoxification services by more than 80 percent, and public mental health residential program facility use by 100 percent
- Supportive housing reduces the use of public services, saving an average of \$16,282 annually

Corrections/Juvenile Detention

- There are three times as many individuals with mental illnesses in U.S. prisons as in state psychiatric hospitals
- Approximately 30 percent of youths in juvenile justice facilities have a substance abuse or co-occurring disorder
- There are 70 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system who have a diagnosable mental illness, 25 percent of whom suffer significant impairment

Costs/Health Spending

- The cost-benefit ratio for substance abuse treatment is 7:1. One dollar invested in treatment for alcohol and other drug problems saves taxpayers \$7.14 in future costs
- State spending on mental health care decreased from \$16.5 billion in 1955 to \$11.5 billion in 1997 (inflation adjusted)
- Most of indirect spending on mental health — approximately \$63 billion — reflects the loss of productivity as a result of illnesses; but indirect costs also include almost \$12 billion in mortality costs (lost productivity resulting from premature death) and almost \$4 billion in productivity losses for incarcerated individuals and for the time of those who provide family care
- Florida ranks 48th in per capita mental health spending

Uninsured

- Florida ranks 44th in insured individuals ages 0-64
- One in five people with severe mental illness — nearly 4 million — lack health insurance