

# DID YOU KNOW?

## In Vermont,

Nearly 12% of our total state budget is spent on the collateral consequences of substance abuse, and only 3/10 of 1% on prevention and treatment.

**“These spending patterns are not only fiscally irresponsible, they do not do nearly enough to ameliorate the human suffering associated with the disease of substance abuse addiction. Moreover, the state does not have the capability of raising enough money to “shovel up” the entire wreckage of substance abuse.”** Elephant in Vermont’s Living Room: The Impact of Substance Abuse on the State Budget. December 2001

## Nationally,

One in four people in recovery from alcoholism and drug addiction say they have been discriminated against when trying to obtain employment or insurance.

**Every dollar spent on drug treatment in the community is estimated to return \$18.52 in benefits to society in terms of reduced incarceration rates and associated criminal costs to taxpayers.**

*Source: Substance Abuse Treatment and public safety, Justice Policy Institute, 2008.*

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Between 40 and 80% of families in the child welfare system have alcohol or other drug problems, and a majority of children in foster care come from families with drug or alcohol problems.

More than half of all state prison inmates were under the influence of alcohol or drugs when they were arrested.

Nearly one in six state inmates committed their crimes to support a drug addiction.

About 20% of acute Medicaid expenditures pay for alcohol or drug related medical costs.

70% of the child welfare budget is spent on alcohol or drug related problems.

77% of the criminal justice budget is spent on alcohol or drug related problems.

66% of the juvenile justice budget is spent on alcohol or drug related problems.

25% of the health budget is spent on alcohol or drug related problems.

51% of the mental health budget is spent on alcohol or drug related problems.

16% - 37% of the welfare budget is spent on alcohol or drug related problems.

9% of the developmental disabilities budget is spent on alcohol or drug related problems.

National statistics from the **Blueprint for the States: Policies to Improve the Ways States Organize and Deliver Alcohol and Drug Prevention and Treatment**; Join Together, 2006.

For more information contact  
Friends of Recovery- Vermont PO Box 1202 Montpelier, VT 05602  
[www.friendsof recoveryvt.org](http://www.friendsof recoveryvt.org) [recoveryvt@aol.com](mailto:recoveryvt@aol.com)  
toll-free 1 (800) 769-2798 1 (802) 229-6103