

Untreated Addiction = Crime and Crowded Jails

Partners

Governor's Council
on Alcohol and Drugs

OLCC - Oregon Liquor
Control Commission

Ecumenical Ministries
of Oregon

OPERA - Oregon
Prevention Education
Recovery Association

Oregon Partnership

ACCBO - Addiction
Counselor Certification
Board of Oregon

AOC - Association
of Oregon Counties

AFSCME - American
Federation of State,
County and Municipal
Employees

AOCMHP - Association
of Oregon Community
Mental Health Programs

CARSA - Community
Action to Reduce
Substance Abuse

Citizens Crime
Commission

American Association
of University Women
of Oregon

Every \$1 invested in addiction treatment services yields a savings of 4-\$7 in reduced drug-related crime and criminal justice costs.

When health care is included, savings can exceed \$12 for every \$1 spent on treatment.

-- Report by the National Institute on Drug Abuse --



The evidence in Oregon is overwhelming:

- That alcohol and drug abusers are much more likely to commit crimes.
- That arrestees are much more likely to be under the influence of drugs and alcohol at the time they commit a crime.
- That alcohol and drug abusers are much more likely to commit violent crimes, ending up in prison and costing Oregon taxpayers almost \$1 billion annually in corrections and criminal justice alone.

Is there an answer?

The evidence is also overwhelming that when alcohol and drug abusers are in or have completed treatment, they are much less likely to commit crimes.

In a 2008 study by Portland's Central City Concern, its post-treatment clients reported a 95% reduction in the use of illegal drugs and a 93% reduction in criminal activity. The CCC study echoes findings by social service and treatment agencies throughout the country.

We know from hard evidence that addicts can and do kick the habit. If we can prevent drug abuse, we can prevent drug addiction, and if we can prevent drug addiction, we can prevent crime and generate millions of dollars in lost revenue that would otherwise be spent on the criminal justice system and corrections.

According to a new statewide poll by Moore Information, Inc., 64% of Oregon voters oppose cutting funding for substance abuse programs. They know that funding treatment makes good, economic sense.

Oregon voters believe – and they are correct – that alcohol and drug treatment means safer neighborhoods, less crime, healthier communities, and renewed lives.

Learn more at: orpartnership.org