Substance use in adolescence can have major negative impacts on adolescents’ mental health, education, employment, and involvement in the criminal justice system—all of which can lead to negative long-term problems in adulthood. Below are results of treatment outcomes for a Kentucky statewide sample of 181 adolescents (ages 11-17) who entered publicly funded substance abuse treatment between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2014 and then completed a follow-up survey 12 months later.

**Significant Reductions in Problems with Past-12-Month Substance Use & Behavioral Health**

### Substance Use
- 92% clients reporting any illegal drug use at intake
- 38% clients reporting any illegal drug use at follow-up
- 67% clients reporting any alcohol use at intake
- 37% clients reporting any alcohol use at follow-up

### Behavioral Health Symptoms
- 40% at intake
- 13% at follow-up
- 49% at intake
- 20% at follow-up
- 53% at intake
- 24% at follow-up

### Significant Improvements in School Performance
- 2.3 average GPA at intake
- 2.7 average GPA at follow-up
- 11.9 average number of absences at intake
- 6.6 average number of absences at follow-up
- 56% clients reported detention, suspension, or expulsion at intake
- 19% clients reported detention, suspension, or expulsion at follow-up

By comparing the expected yearly earnings of AKTOS youth (based upon the level of educational attainment) and the cost of substance abuse treatment for adolescents included in this analysis, the return to society on treatment expenditures can be expressed such that for every $1.00 spent on treatment there is a $4.84 return in estimated employment additions to local and state economies.

**They taught me a lot and helped me a lot. They made me want to be sober.**

- Quote from AKTOS Follow-up Interview Client

Report prepared by the University of Kentucky Center on Drug and Alcohol Research. Findings from the full report can be downloaded from: cdar.uky.edu/aktos