Clients in Kentucky benefit from substance abuse treatment in multiple ways: reducing their substance use, increasing their employment and income, decreasing their involvement with the criminal justice system, and increasing their recovery supports. As a result of these benefits to the individual client, the state also receives a cost benefit from increased abstinence among substance abuse clients.

There was a reduction in drug and alcohol use following treatment

- 21% reduction in alcohol use
- 57% reduction in illegal drugs use
- 64% reduction in prescription opiates use

After treatment, criminal involvement decreased.

- 44% reduction in arrests
- 36% reduction in incarceration

“The counselors really helped me open up and let go of past. They helped me look forward to my future.”

[KTOS Follow-up Interview Client Quote]

Improved economic status after treatment

- 24% significant increase in full-time employment
- 44% significant increase in monthly income

For the sample overall, there was a significant increase from intake to follow-up in the percent of clients reporting full-time employment.

At intake, clients reported an average income of $679 for the past 30 days and at follow-up, this number increased to $976.

Taking reported monthly income multiplied by 12 months, it is estimated KTOS clients earned an average of $8,148. This figure indicates these clients could not have afforded privately-funded treatment and, thus, publically-funded treatment was their only option to become clean.

Treating individual clients saves Kentucky taxpayers money short-term

- Estimated annual statewide cost of substance use to society before treatment: $27,949,733
- Estimated annual statewide cost of substance use to society after treatment: $19,474,966
- Estimated annual savings based on difference in cost to society before and after treatment: $8,474,767
- Estimated annual cost of state-funded substance abuse treatment: $1,996,750
- Estimated annual cost savings for every dollar spent on treatment: $4.24

* Cost of substance abuse treatment based upon services reported by the community mental health centers to the Kentucky Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID) and cost of services reports from the DBHDID.

For more information about KTOS contact Jeff Jamar at the Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (502-564-4456)

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