Clients in Kentucky benefit from substance abuse treatment in multiple ways: reducing their substance use, increasing their employment, 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.

Improved economic status after treatment

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

Clients reported working an average of 4 out of the past 12 months at intake. However, of those clients who worked, they reported working significantly more months at follow-up (5.2)

Improved recovery supports

An increase was seen in client use of mutual-help recovery groups like alcoholics anonymous (AA) or narcotics anonymous (NA)

The average number of people clients reported they could count on for recovery support increased significantly after treatment

Clients reported a positive treatment experience

On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the worst and 10 being the best possible experience, the mean rating was 7.8 indicating that most clients had a largely positive treatment experience.

There was a reduction in drug and alcohol use following treatment

50% Any illegal drugs
56% Prescription opioids
26% Alcohol

After treatment, criminal involvement decreased

48% Arrests
44% Incarceration

Treating individual clients saves Kentucky taxpayers money short-term

Estimated annual statewide cost of substance use to society before treatment
Estimated annual statewide cost of substance use to society after treatment
Estimated annual savings based on difference in cost to society before and after treatment
Estimated annual cost of state-funded substance abuse treatment
Estimated annual savings for every dollar spent on treatment

* 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 reported by DBHDID

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