Kentucky adults experience positive changes with substance abuse treatment

Clients in Kentucky benefit from substance abuse treatment in multiple ways: reducing their substance use, increasing their employment, reducing mental health problems, decreasing their involvement with the criminal justice system, and increasing their recovery supports. Below are results of treatment outcomes for a Kentucky statewide sample of 1,266 adults who entered publicly funded substance abuse treatment in FY 2012 and then completed a follow-up 12 months later.

Decrease in percentage of adults who reported any past 12 month substance use

- 54% fewer clients reported illegal drug use
- 77% fewer clients who met criteria for severe drug use disorder
- 30% fewer clients reported any use of alcohol
- 58% fewer clients who met criteria for severe alcohol use disorder

Decrease in clients reporting mental and physical health symptoms

- 26% decrease in depression
- 20% decrease in number of days poor physical or mental health kept client from usual activities

Fewer homeless individuals

- 25% decrease in homelessness

"I am a recovering addict and have been drug-free for a year and a half. It’s been great. I even got custody of my son back.”

- Quote from KTOS Follow-up Interview Clients

Improved recovery supports

- 48% increase in clients attending recovery meetings

Clients rated their experience with substance abuse treatment as 7.9 out of 10

- The majority of individuals (67%) gave a highly positive rating between 8 and 10 of their experience in the program, where 10 represented the best possible experience.

Improved economic status

- 68% increase in clients employed full-time
- 24% increase in the number of months clients were employed

"It was a life saving event, taught me more about who I really was and what I was trying to hide from. It taught me to face them head on”

- Quote from KTOS Follow-up Interview Clients

Less involvement with the criminal justice system

- 56% decrease in arrests
- 53% decrease in incarceration

Investing in substance abuse treatment saves state taxpayers money

- Using national estimates of the cost of substance abuse and applying them to clients’ substance use before and after program participation, there was a $6.41 return in cost savings for every dollar spent on providing treatment services.

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/ktos

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