

Impact on Health Outcomes:

Research has shown that inpatient, emergency department, and total health care costs decline by 39, 35, and 26 percent respectively after patients who suffer from alcohol or drug addiction receive treatment (Kaiser Permanente Medical Program).



Costs of Substance Use Disorders

- Substance use is a key contributor to the national problem of **escalating health care costs** (McLellan, 2014).
- Studies show that substance use and substance use disorders are **associated with the use of high-cost services** such as inpatient hospitalizations and emergency department visits (Fuller & Mark, 2013).
- Many health problems leading to hospitalization stem from, or are **exacerbated by substance use**. Hospitalization is an important indicator of serious public health burden and high-cost use of health care (Health Affairs, January 2016).
- Medical services and related costs are **eight times higher** for individuals with untreated substance use disorders than for those without the disease (Center for Policy Research & Analysis at the Treatment Research Institute).
- According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), individuals who suffer from addiction often have one or **more accompanying medical issues**, which may include lung or cardiovascular disease, stroke, cancer, HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B and C.
- According to the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA), risks for more than 70 conditions that often entail hospitalization -- such as heart disease, cancer and digestive disorder -- are **increased when the patient also abuses substances**.



- 68 percent of adults with substance use and/or mental health disorders have **at least one physical health condition** (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Policy Brief, 2011).