

Substance Abuse in Maine: What does it cost us?

Office of Substance Abuse

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

The Issue in Maine:

☐ Crime:

Approximately half of Maine prisoners are diagnosed with substance dependency or abuse. Between 1 out of 3 and 1 out of 4 inmates were drunk or high at the time of their offense.

☐ Death:

In 2005, 681 persons died of substance-related causes. This number represents 15,750 years of potential life lost.

☐ Medical Care:

In 2005, 8350 hospitalizations were directly or indirectly related to substance abuse.

Health problems from immediate use include injury and overdose.

Health problems from long-term use include: Certain cancers; Damage to liver and pancreas; Psychoses.



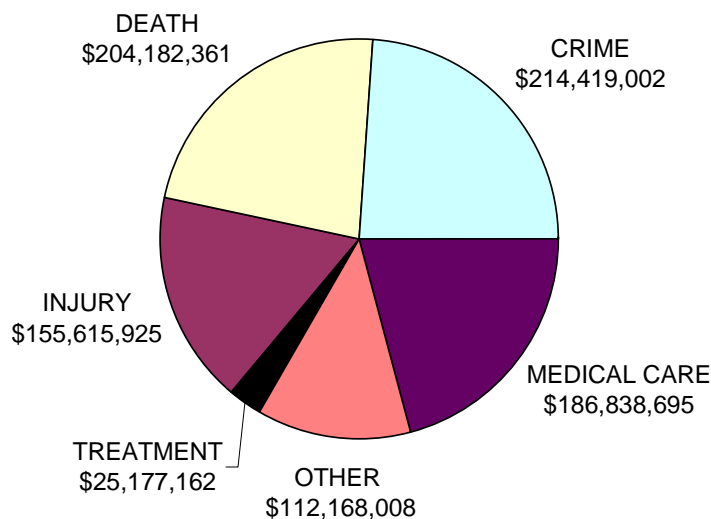
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In 2005, the total estimated cost of substance abuse in Maine was nearly \$900,000,000. This cost translates into \$682 for every man, woman and child in Maine. The 3 largest costs are substance abuse related crime 24%, death 23%, and medical care 21%.

**Costs of Substance Abuse
 Maine, 2005 Estimate**



☐ Other Costs consisted of:

Child Welfare - \$53,000,000
 Social Welfare Programs - \$2,000,000
 Fires - \$9,000,000
 Car Crashes - \$48,000,000

☐ The least amount was spent on substance abuse treatment, 3%.

☐ The estimated cost of Substance Abuse in 2010 is \$1,180,000,000. The estimated cost of Substance Abuse in 2015 for the citizens of the state of Maine is one billion, four hundred fifty eight million dollars (\$1,458,000,000).*

The escalating cost of substance abuse could be offset by increasing the implementation of effective prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery policies and programs across the state.

* Estimate based on projection from 2000 and 2005 estimates.