

# **Substance Abuse in Maine: What does it cost us?**

## **Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services**

### **Maine Department of Health and Human Services**

#### The Issue in Maine:

##### ☐ Crime:

Approximately 1 out of 3 state inmates were drunk or high at the time of their offense. There were 17,713 arrests for drug and alcohol offenses in 2010.

##### ☐ Death:

In 2010, 713 people died of substance-related causes. This number represents 15,898 years of potential life lost.

##### ☐ Medical Care:

In 2010, 6,453 in-patient and 103,142 out-patient hospital visits 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.



Paul R. LePage, Governor

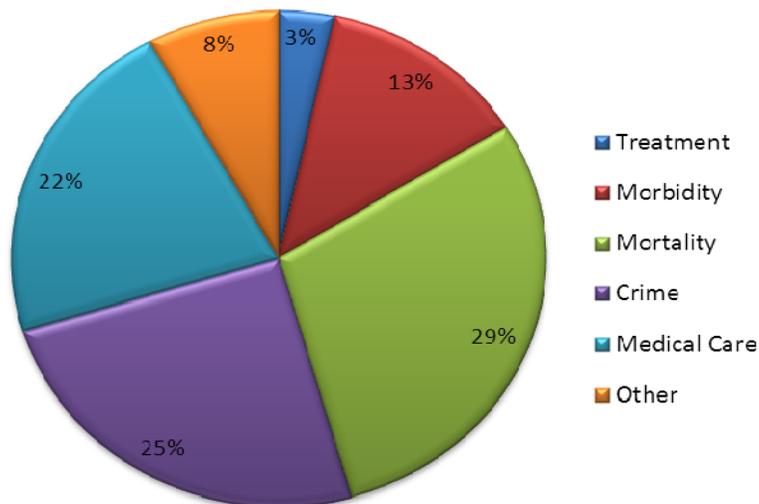
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In 2010, the total estimated cost of substance abuse in Maine was over \$1,400,000,000. This cost translates into \$1,057 for every man, woman and child in Maine. The 3 largest costs are substance abuse related death 29.2%, crime 24.5%, and medical care 21.6%.

#### **Distribution of Substance Abuse, 2010**



##### ☐ Other Costs consisted of:

Child Welfare - \$45,893,500  
Social Welfare Programs - \$3,541,178  
Fires - \$9,453,680  
Car Crashes - \$53,050,585

☐ The least amount was spent on substance abuse treatment, 3.3%.

☐ The estimated cost of Substance Abuse in 2013 is \$1,500,000,000.\*

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, 2005, and 2010 estimates with inflation.

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