

## The Impact of Treatment on Substance Abuse

Substance abuse treatment works. In addition to helping people stay clean and sober, it also helps them to become productive members of society once again.

- **Treatment of addiction is as successful** as treatment of other chronic diseases, such as diabetes, hypertension and asthma. According to numerous studies, drug treatment reduces drug use by 40-60 percent and significantly decreases criminal activity after treatment. (*National Institute on Drug Abuse, 1999*)
- **For every dollar spent on treating an individual** with a substance abuse problem, society saves approximately \$12 in future costs. On average, almost 75 percent of those who go through a treatment program remain drug-free six months later and 63 percent are still drug-free one year later. Studies further show that employment rates nearly double and crime rates are reduced by 80 percent in the first year among those who have completed treatment. (*National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, 1990*)
- **It costs, on average, \$20,000 per year to incarcerate a person** for drug- or alcohol-related offenses in Oklahoma. By contrast, drug courts, a judicially monitored treatment alternative to incarceration, cost an average of \$5,000 per client. Outpatient programs cost even less. (*Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, 2002*)
- **Individuals who enter treatment under legal pressure** have outcomes as favorable as those who enter treatment voluntarily. Also, for anyone entering treatment, the longer the treatment, the better – at least 90 days or longer. (*National Institute on Drug Abuse, 1999*)
- **For every dollar invested in an Employee Assistance Program (EAP)**, employers save from \$5 to \$16. The average annual cost for an EAP ranges from \$12 to \$20 per employee. (*National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, 1999*)
- **Nationally, only 15 percent of individuals addicted to alcohol or other drugs** will receive treatment in the coming year. Part of the reason is money. Expenditures for treatment are less than 1 percent of the \$200 billion price tag for alcohol and other drug use. (*National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, 1990*)

