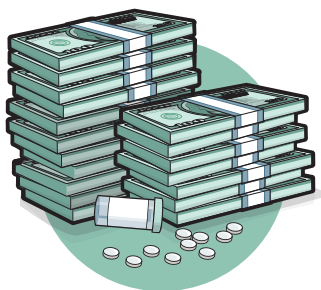


The High Price of the Opioid Crisis, 2021

Increasing access to treatment can reduce costs

Untreated opioid use disorder (OUD), a chronic brain disease, has a serious cost to people, their families, and society because of increased health care spending, criminal justice issues, and lost productivity.

Each year, opioid overdose, misuse, and dependence account for:



\$35 billion in health care costs¹

Patients who experienced an opioid overdose accounted for \$1.94 billion in annual hospital costs.²



\$14.8 billion in criminal justice costs³

Each dollar invested in addiction treatment reduces drug-related crime, theft, and criminal justice costs by \$4-\$7.⁴



\$92 billion in lost productivity⁵

The losses stem from premature death due to overdose, “productive hours” lost to OUD, and opioid-related incarceration.

Nearly 70,000 Americans died of an opioid overdose in 2020.⁶ Improving access to evidence-based treatments for OUD has been associated with savings of \$25,000 to \$105,000 in lifetime costs per person.⁷

Endnotes

- 1 C. Florence, F. Lui, and K. Rice, "The Economic Burden of Opioid Use Disorder and Fatal Opioid Overdose in the United States, 2017," *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* 218 (2021), <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33121867/>.
- 2 Premier Inc., "Opioid Overdoses Costing U.S. Hospitals an Estimated \$11 Billion Annually," news release, Jan. 3, 2019, <https://www.premierinc.com/newsroom/press-releases/opioid-overdoses-costing-u-s-hospitals-an-estimated-11-billion-annually>.
- 3 Florence et al., "The Economic Burden of Opioid Use Disorder."
- 4 National Institute on Drug Abuse, "Principles of Effective Treatment," accessed July 8, 2021, <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/principles-drug-addiction-treatment-research-based-guide-third-edition/principles-effective-treatment>.
- 5 Florence et al., "The Economic Burden of Opioid Use Disorder."
- 6 National Center for Health Statistics, "Provisional Drug Overdose Death Counts," accessed July 16, 2021, <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>.
- 7 M. Fairley et al., "Cost-Effectiveness of Treatments for Opioid Use Disorder," *JAMA Psychiatry* 78, no. 7 (2021), <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapsychiatry/article-abstract/2778020>.

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