



**Put In Your 2¢ Worth...**  
**About 2¢ a drink yields \$44 million annually to reduce the impact of alcohol problems in Missouri.**

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**Question:**

*What evidence do we have for the economic benefits of treatment for alcohol abuse and addiction?*

**Answer:**

Nearly two decades of treatment research, represented by hundreds of studies, finds that substance abuse treatment results in significant reductions in alcohol and other drug use, crime, and improvement in health and social functions for many clients.

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**MISSOURI ALCOHOL IMPACT FACT #65**

- “Economic studies across settings, populations, methods, and time periods consistently find positive net economic benefits of alcohol and other drug treatment that are relatively robust. The primary economic benefits occur from reduced crime (including incarceration and victimization costs) and post-treatment reduction in health care costs.”
- “In general, outpatient programs achieve reductions in substance abuse at a lower cost than residential programs, although the latter services may be more effective for higher risk populations. Enhanced outpatient programs tend to be more cost effective than standard outpatient programs.”
- “However, studies of brief interventions for alcohol-involved clients suggest that less intensive interventions may be more cost effective in certain settings.”
- “Residential prison treatment is cost effective but only in conjunction with post-release aftercare services. In addition, cost effectiveness is greater for high-risk inmates who receive prison treatment plus aftercare, compared with low-risk inmates.”
- “Better controlled and designed studies are needed to determine the long-term economic impact of treatment, and the specific components of treatment that are cost-effective or produce positive economic benefits.”

*Source: Belenko, S., Economic Benefits of Drug Treatment: A Critical Review of the Evidence for Policy Makers. (February, 2005). Primary funding provided by the Scaife Family Foundation and the Missouri Foundation for Health.*

**For more information call one of the Missouri's Alcohol Impact Coalition members below:**

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