



Estimated Short Term Cost Savings for Sustaining the Youth-In-Transition (YIT) Grant in the Governor's Budget

The chart below reflects short-term, annual, estimated cost savings in four YIT outcome domains: incarceration, mental health, substance use and employment. The estimated savings presented here are based on 538 young adults enrolled in the most basic level of the YIT evaluation, which started in April 2010. It is important to recognize that: 1) 538 is an underestimate of the young adults served by the YIT Grant; 2) these savings are over the course of a young adult's first year after initiating services; 3) only four domains are reflected here while YIT focused on eight outcome domains. Thus, there may be greater, additional long term savings gained as young adults continue to make strides and become more productive, healthy and contributing members of society.

RESULTS



Depression
Prescription Opiate Abuse
Days Incarcerated
Other Criminal Behaviors



Employment

Healthcare costs for opioid abusers range from 3 to 8 times higher as there is a greater risk of co-occurring mental health and chronic health conditions.

Government spends \$373 billion on substance use each year. 96% of those dollars are spent on the collateral damage of substance misuse.

Crimes yield significant costs including those to the victim and justice system, lost wages and taxes, and intangible costs like quality of life and pain and suffering.



Depression is the leading cause of disability costing the U.S. \$43 billion dollars per year.

In U.S., annual indirect economic cost of mental illness is \$79 billion dollars.

If incidence of mental illness were reduced by an average of 10%, annual savings would exceed \$4 billion on direct costs (health and social services care) after 10 years.

In Vermont in 2013, 15% & 9% of young people aged 16-19 & 20-24 respectively were unemployed. These rates are more than double the overall unemployment rates for Vermont. Nationally, youth unemployment is expected to result in \$20 billion in lost wages over the next 10 years.

TOTAL ESTIMATED SAVINGS IN 1 YEAR: **\$976,169**

Questions? Contact Tom Delaney at Thomas.Delaney@uvm.edu; [802] 656-9192.



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