



NEWS RELEASE

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Substance Abuse Costs WV's Criminal Justice System More Than \$429 Million

According to the latest report from the WV Prevention Resource Center (WVPRC), the financial impact of drug and alcohol abuse on West Virginia's criminal justice system was \$429,771,027 in 2010. This is more than a \$50 million increase since 2009. The report projects costs could rise to more than \$695 million by 2017.

"The Financial Burden of Substance Abuse in West Virginia: The Criminal Justice System, Series 2" is an updated, continuation of a series of reports that examine the cost of substance abuse on West Virginia's criminal justice, healthcare, education, welfare and workforce systems. This report focuses on eight sectors of the criminal justice system – the Public Defender Program, Prosecuting Attorneys Institute, Parole Board, Law Enforcement, Judicial System, Division of Juvenile Services, Division of Corrections, and Regional Jail Authority.

"More than half of the budgets of most WV criminal justice agencies go toward substance abuse-related crimes," said Yetty Shobo, WVPRC Evaluation Specialist and author of the report.

The cost of substance abuse report series is **available at www.PrevNET.org**. The current report was funded through a federal *Projects of Regional and National Significance* grant from the U.S. Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

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