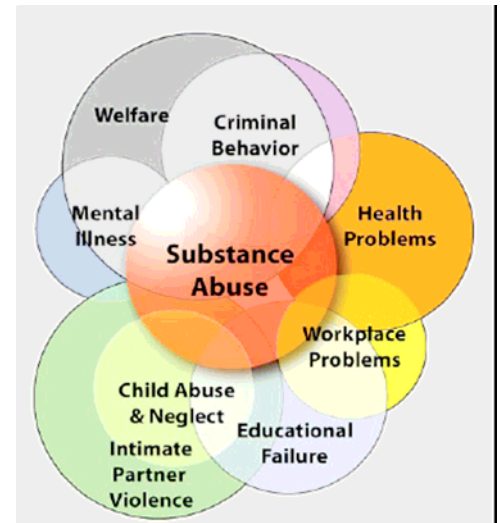


THE IMPACT OF METHAMPHETAMINE IN LARAMIE COUNTY

Meth Is Everybody's Problem

Recent Meth-Related Statistics:

- 52% of foster care placements Jan. - Oct. 2006
- 69% of 2006 Court Appointed Special Advocate cases
- 70% of public defender cases (estimated)
- 92% increase in treatment admissions since 2002
- 73% increase in domestic violence shelter use since 2002
- 144% increase in the jail population since 2003



Meth Users Strain the System

The Cheyenne-Laramie County Methamphetamine Assessment shows that both public and private systems are severely impacted by meth use in this community.

Substance Abuse Is Costly

<i>Guest Check</i>		
Server	Table	Number Guests
State Budget	Laramie Co.	6,231*
<i>Health</i>		\$3 M
<i>Adult and Juvenile Corrections</i>		\$7 M
<i>Child Welfare</i>		\$2 M
<i>Income Assistance</i>		\$2 M
<i>Education</i>		\$6 M
<i>Mental Health Treatment and Support</i>		\$.3 M
<i>Public Safety</i>		\$.5 M
<i>State Workforce</i>		\$.2 M
<i>Prevention, Treatment, and Research</i>		\$.5 M
<i>Other</i>		\$.3 M
Total		\$21.8 M

“No other single issue impacts more areas of government than alcohol and other drug problems and none is more destructive to state budgets.”

Luceille Fleming, former Director, Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, *Blueprint for the States*, 2006.

Laramie County's cost to the Wyoming state budget is over \$21 million per year.

Source: *Shoveling Up: The Impact of Substance Abuse On State Budgets*. The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 2001.

*This is the number of adolescents and adults in Laramie County who need substance abuse treatment but have not received treatment.

Treatment Works And It Is A Good Investment

- Treatment reduces drug use, criminal activity, and psychiatric distress by 50% (SAMHSA, 2006).
- Every \$1 invested in substance abuse treatment saves the state budget \$7 (Ettner et al., 2006).
- Incarceration is nearly 1.8 times as expensive as residential treatment (Daley et al., 2004).

How Can We Prevent Meth Use And Reduce The Cost To Society?

- Keep mandating and funding treatment and prevention
- Intervene early, treat families, and help those who are not in the treatment system
- Change “Kids will be kids” culture to delay onset of drinking and drug use
- Community coalitions can develop strategies to successfully mobilize and address this problem