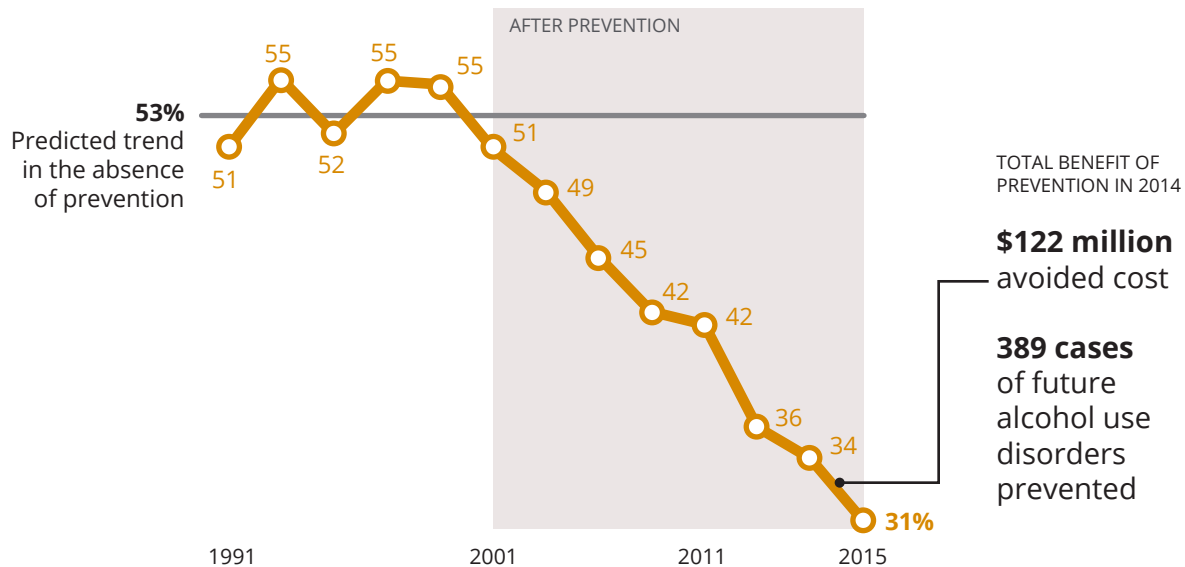


VALUE OF PREVENTION | JUNE 2017

Potential Cost Savings from Delaying Youth Alcohol Use in Wyoming

Prevention Efforts Impact Usage, Cost and Future Health Problems in Youth

Percent of Wyoming youth who used alcohol in the past 30 days, 1991 - 2015



Source: WY YRBS 1991-2015; avoided cost and case prevention data, WY PNA 2001 & 2014.

What is the cost of alcohol use disorders?

Alcohol use disorders are one of the most prevalent use disorders in the United States.¹ In 2010, the societal cost of alcohol use disorders to Wyoming was approximately \$843 million.²

In this study we estimate the potential cost savings realized by the prevention of a single alcohol use disorder to be \$313,700.³

The benefits from prevention accrue in the future and equal the costs that would have been incurred

by an individual over the time period they engaged in disordered behavior.

Alcohol Use among Youth

Although drinking among youth is on the decline, alcohol continues to be the most commonly reported substance used among all grade levels in Wyoming.⁴

Early drinking onset has been associated with a range of social, emotional, behavioral, and health problems such as risky sexual behavior, car crash involvement, and unintentional injuries.⁵

Value of Prevention: Potential Cost Savings from Delaying Youth Alcohol Use

In addition, research has shown long-term negative effects on adolescent neurocognitive development.^{5,6}

Prevention in Wyoming

Since 2001, Wyoming communities have pursued a comprehensive approach to preventing underage drinking using mostly evidence-based strategies that impact the entire population.

In 2014, we estimate 389 cases of future alcohol use disorders were avoided due to prevention efforts in Wyoming communities and at the national level.³

Delay of Onset

Our analysis of the value of prevention in Wyoming is based on a large body of evidence that shows a correlation between age of first drink and a higher probability of developing an alcohol use disorder later in life.⁷⁻¹¹

Total Benefit for 2014

The potential cost savings of delaying the onset of alcohol use for the 2014 senior high school class is approximately \$122 million.³

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TOTAL BENEFIT OF PREVENTION IN 2014

\$122 million
potential cost savings

389 cases
of future alcohol use disorders avoided

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