

The Economics of Prevention: A Perspective from Washington State

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NASEM

Committee on a
Blueprint for a
National
Prevention
Infrastructure for
Behavioral
Health Disorders

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Washington State Institute for Public Policy

Created by the WA Legislature

- ✓ **Mission:** *"to assist policymakers . . . in making informed judgments about important, long-term issues facing Washington State."*
- ✓ Explicitly nonpartisan staff
- ✓ Projects assigned via legislative bills or Board of Directors

Governed by a bipartisan Board of Directors

- ✓ 16-members, representing:
- ✓ Legislature (10), Governor (2), higher education (4)

Typical assignments

- ✓ What works?
- ✓ Benefit-cost analysis
- ✓ General research questions

Website: www.wsipp.wa.gov



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WSIPP's mission is to carry out practical, non-partisan research—at legislative direction—on issues of importance to Washington State.

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The Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) is a nonpartisan public research group located in Olympia, the hub of Washington State government. WSIPP is a team of multidisciplinary researchers who conduct applied policy research for the state legislature in a creative and collaborative environment.

WSIPP is strongly committed to the core values of nonpartisanship, quality, and impartiality. Created in 1983, WSIPP has become nationally and internationally recognized for the design, depth, and quality of its research reports and benefit-cost analyses.

Website: Benefit-Cost Database

All Research Areas

Positive Academic Achievement
School-based Mentoring
Caring School Development
Good Behavior
School-Wide Supports (SWIS)
Promoting Resilience
Coping and Emotional Regulation
Seattle Social-Emotional Learning
Sunshine Curriculum
Community Engagement
Project EX
All Stars

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Higher Education

Chance benefits will exceed costs
94%
66%
71%
61%
77%
74%
62%
81%
57%
91%
57%
88%
96%

WSIPP Benefit-Cost Analysis: Required Components

1. **Cost:** How much will it cost the state on average, per-participant?
2. **Magnitude of effect(s):** How much change do we expect to result from the program?
 - ✓ Meta-analysis
3. **Price of outcomes:** For the outcomes measured in an evaluation, what is the expected cost to society?
 - ✓ Includes relationships with other, unmeasured outcomes

Price: Direct Consequences of Depression

- ✓ Health care system
 - Total medical expenditures
 - **Lifetime cost ~ \$31,000**
- ✓ Labor market earnings
 - Adults with MDD are less likely to be employed
 - Adults with MDD earn less money once employed
 - **Lifetime cost ~ \$56,000**
- ✓ Mortality
 - Adults with MDD are more likely to die
 - **Lifetime cost ~ \$3,000**
- ✓ Additional impacts for youth
 - Youth with MDD are less likely to graduate from high school
 - Youth with MDD are more likely to repeat a grade

Price: Direct Consequences of AUD

✓ Health care system

- Hospitalization
- Emergency department visits
- AUD treatment
 - **Lifetime cost ~ \$5,000**

✓ Labor market earnings

- Adults with AUD are less likely to be employed
- Adults with AUD earn less money once employed
 - **Lifetime cost ~ \$175,000**

✓ Mortality

- Adults with AUD are more likely to die
 - **Lifetime cost ~ \$13,000**

Price: Indirect Consequences of Early Alcohol Use

✓ Alcohol use by middle school

- Later alcohol use disorder (~17 percentage points)
- Reduced HS graduation (~1 percentage point)
- Crime (~5 percentage points)

✓ Costs include

- \$ Healthcare
- \$ Labor market earnings
- \$ Mortality
- \$ Criminal justice system
- \$ Victimizezations

Lifetime cost ~ \$55,000

WSIPP Inventories

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Ongoing Work

Results First continues

The screenshot shows the website for the PennState Social Science Research Institute's Evidence-Based Policymaking Resource Center. The header includes the PennState logo and navigation links: "Who We Are", "What We Do", and "Who We Work With". The main title is "RESULTS FIRST™ Evidence-Based Policymaking Resource Center" with the subtitle "A collection of resources and promising state and county examples". A breadcrumb trail reads: "Home / Research Translation Platform / Results First™ Resources / Evidence-Based Policymaking Resource Center". A red button labeled "View Sitewide Resources" is in the top right. The main content area contains a paragraph about the 2014 Results First™ initiative. A sidebar on the right, titled "Results First™ Resources", lists: "Results First™ Overview", "Cost-Benefit Model", "Evidence-Based Policymaking Resource Center" (highlighted), and "Clearinghouse Database".

PennState
Social Science
Research Institute

Who We Are What We Do Who We Work With

RESULTS FIRST™
Evidence-Based Policymaking Resource Center
A collection of resources and promising state and county examples

[Home](#) / [Research Translation Platform](#) / [Results First™ Resources](#) / Evidence-Based Policymaking Resource Center

[View Sitewide Resources](#)

In 2014, the Results First™ initiative developed a framework for state and county leaders interested in evidence-based policymaking. This framework consists of five key components to help governments use rigorous evidence and data to guide policy and funding decisions. This center contains resources regarding the five components of evidence-based policymaking, including briefs exploring their key elements, fact sheets highlighting best practices to approaching each one, and analyses of states and counties implementing them in their jurisdictions. State and local government leaders can use this resource center to explore new ideas, identify promising practices, and inform their own strategies for creating a more effective government. Below, please find links to these resources.

Results First™ Resources

- Results First™ Overview
- Cost-Benefit Model
- Evidence-Based Policymaking Resource Center**
- Clearinghouse Database

Thank You

