

## FACT SHEET

### **The Economic Costs of Mental Disorders and Alcohol, Tobacco, and Illicit Drug Abuse in Ontario, 2000.**

This Cost of Illness study estimates the economic costs, from a societal perspective, of mental disorders, alcohol abuse, tobacco abuse, and illicit drug abuse for Ontario for the calendar Year 2000. Mental disorders are defined according to the International Classification of Disease, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, Clinical Modification. Substance abuse is defined as any substance use that results in a net social cost. The study's main findings are the following:

#### **TOTAL ECONOMIC COSTS**

- The total economic cost attributable to mental disorders and substance abuse in Ontario in the Year 2000 was **\$33.9 billion dollars**. The total economic costs broken down by diagnostic group were as follows:

Mood disorders: \$12.5 billion

Minor depression and anxiety disorders: \$7.6 billion

Tobacco abuse: \$5.0 billion

Alcohol abuse: \$4.0 billion

Illicit drug abuse: \$2.7 billion

Severe mental illness: \$1.6 billion.

84.8% of the total economic cost of mental disorders and substance abuse (a total of \$28.7 billion) was due to productivity losses. The remaining \$5.2 billion was the total direct cost of mental disorders and substance abuse (including the costs of health providers, hospitalizations, community mental health and substance abuse programs, drugs, law enforcement, supportive housing, fire losses, research, education, prevention, and capital costs).

#### **DIRECT COSTS**

- The direct cost of substance abuse in Ontario 2000 was \$3.0 billion dollars, higher than the direct cost of mental disorders at \$2.1 billion dollars. The main cost components accounting for this substantial difference are the costs of law

enforcement, which for substance abuse were estimated to be \$2.0 billion, compared to \$308 million attributable to mental disorders. The direct cost attributable to alcohol abuse was the highest of any diagnostic group at \$1.5 billion, primarily because of the \$1.1 billion in law enforcement costs. The total direct cost attributable to illicit drug abuse was \$1.0 billion, with almost \$909 million (90.6%) related to law enforcement costs. The total direct costs attributable to tobacco abuse were \$546 million, with \$407 million (74.6%) of this sum due to the hospitalization costs. Among mental disorder diagnostic groupings, severe mental illness had the largest direct cost at \$641 million, of which \$505 million (79%) were health care costs.

### **HEALTH CARE COSTS**

- The total direct health care cost attributable to mental disorders and substance abuse was \$2.4 billion. The largest contributor was the cost associated with acute care hospitalizations (\$855 million dollars), followed by the costs of prescriptions drugs (\$413 million), community mental health treatment services (\$411 million) and physician services (\$334 million dollars).
- The total direct health care costs attributable to mood disorders, severe mental illness, and minor depression and anxiety disorders were \$536 million, \$505 million, and \$418 million dollars, respectively. Among substance abuse, tobacco abuse was associated with the highest total direct health care cost at \$428 million dollars, followed by alcohol abuse (\$262 million) and illicit drug abuse (\$85 million).

### **PRODUCTIVITY LOSSES**

- Among the estimated productivity losses, the costs attributable to morbidity were 26 times greater than the costs attributable to premature mortality. The long-term productivity losses associated with mood disorders were \$11.7 billion dollars, and comprised more than one-third of the total economic costs attributed to all mental disorders and substance abuse in Ontario.

Electronic copies of the main report, a highlights report, and this fact sheet may be downloaded from: [www.camh.net](http://www.camh.net).