

Parity for Substance Use Disorders

✓ Good public policy

Virtually every domestic problem our nation faces is impacted by substance abuse: crime, crippers and killers like cancer, heart disease, AIDS, hepatitis B and C, and cirrhosis, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, teen pregnancy, chronic welfare, the rise in learning disabled and conduct disordered children, and poor schools and disrupted classrooms.

Addressing substance use disorders is essential to improving the health of our citizens and our communities.

✓ Good economics

In 1998 the states spent, \$81.3 billion to deal with substance abuse and Addiction. California spent almost \$11 billion.

Addressing substance use disorders is essential to reducing this economic burden.

Shoveling Up: The Impact of Substance Abuse on State Budgets; The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University

Adding full and equal coverage for alcohol and drug addiction only increases premiums by 0.2\$ or about \$1 per month for most families.

✓ Good Business

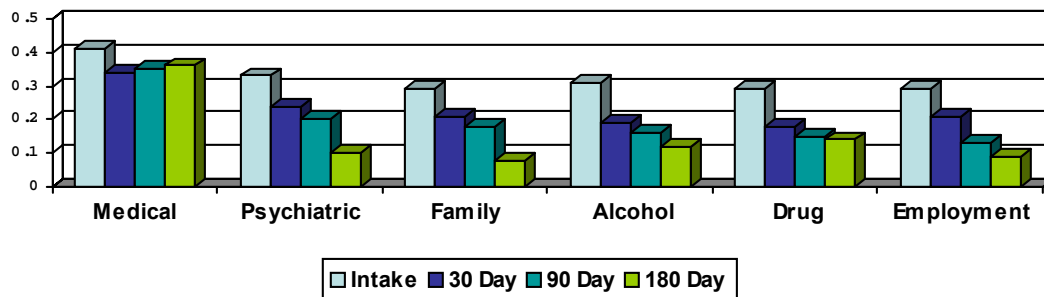
Employers who provide generous mental health and substance abuse benefits to their employees and their families are convinced that doing so is essential to their bottom line.

Large employer experiences and best practices in design, administration and evaluation of mental health and substance abuse benefits; Washington Business Group on Health, March 2000

✓ Good medicine

Treatment works:

Addiction Severity Index composite scores.
Chemical Dependence Program, Kaiser Hospital, Harbor City
2001-2002



The California Society of Addiction Medicine asks your support for substance abuse parity legislation so this complex issue can be forwarded to the University of California for further study.