

Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs and Health raises the profile of the epidemic and advocates proven treatment options. The report states that an American dies every 19 minutes from opioid or heroin overdose amounting to an economic impact of \$442 billion each year – topping diabetes at \$245 billion. The report advocates for a shift on addiction that removes the stigma from addiction, creating more patients and fewer prisoners. The report further states that for every \$1 invested in viable treatment options for substance abuse disorders saves \$4 in health care costs and \$7 in criminal justice costs. “We have to recognize an addiction isn't evidence of a character flaw or a moral failing. It's a chronic disease of the brain that deserves the same compassion that any other chronic illness does, like diabetes or heart disease”, said Vivek Murthy, Surgeon General. Read the full report at <https://addiction.surgeongeneral.gov/>