In 2014, substance use cost the Albertan economy $5.5 BILLION amounting to $1,332 per capita, regardless of age.

Compared to $38.4 billion or $1,081 per capita in Canada.

Economic costs of substances over time (in millions)

Economic costs of substance use by cost category in 2014 (in millions)

Cost categories

- **Healthcare-Related Costs**
  - inpatient hospitalizations, day surgery treatment episodes, emergency department presentations, specialist treatment, costs of physician time, and prescription drug costs

- **Lost Productivity Costs**
  - lost value of work due to premature mortality, short-term and long-term disability, absenteeism, and impaired job performance

- **Criminal Justice Costs**
  - police work, courts and corrections, expenditures for criminal offences (impaired driving, homicides or assaults, and non-violent offences)

- **Other Direct Costs**
  - research and prevention programs, attributable fire damage, motor vehicle damage, drug testing in the workplace, employee-assistance programs, and workers’ compensation
In 2014, substance use cost the Canadian economy **$38.4 BILLION**

In 2014, substance use cost the Albertan economy **$5.5 BILLION**

Per capita economic costs attributed to substance use in provinces and territories

In 2014, the economic cost of substance use was **$1,081** spent for every Canadian, regardless of age.

For the same year, the cost of substance use was **$1,332** per person in Alberta.

*Meaningful per capita costs for Quebec could not be calculated*

Per capita economic costs attributed to substance use in Canada in 2014

Alcohol and tobacco contribute nearly 70% of costs, with cannabis and opioids being the next largest contributors.

Proportion of economic costs for the major substances in 2014

The highest-cost substance in the Atlantic provinces (Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick) is **tobacco**, while alcohol is the highest-cost substance for all other provinces and territories.

Alberta proportionally spends more on alcohol-related costs (44%) than the Canadian average (38%).

*Meaningful costs for Quebec could not be calculated*
Economic costs of substance use by cost category in 2014 (in millions)

**Canada**

**All Substances:**
- Healthcare
- Criminal Justice
- Lost Productivity
- Other Direct

**Top 4 Substances:**
- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Cannabis
- Opioids

**Leading substances per cost category in 2014 in Canada**

- **Lost Productivity Costs:** Alcohol and tobacco
- **Healthcare-Related Costs:** Tobacco
- **Criminal Justice Costs:** Alcohol

**Comparing Canada and Alberta by cost category**

- Canada and Alberta have similar cost proportions for **all substances** and for **alcohol** and **tobacco**
- Alberta spends a smaller percentage on **Criminal Justice Costs** for **cannabis**
- Alberta spends a larger percentage on **Lost Productivity Costs** for **opioids**

**Cost categories**

- **Healthcare-Related Costs:** inpatient hospitalizations, day surgery treatment episodes, emergency department presentations, specialist treatment, costs of physician time, and prescription drug costs
- **Lost Productivity Costs:** lost value of work due to premature mortality, short-term and long-term disability, absenteeism, and impaired job performance
- **Criminal Justice Costs:** police work, courts and corrections, expenditures for criminal offences (impaired driving, homicides or assaults, and non-violent offences)
- **Other Direct Costs:** research and prevention programs, attributable fire damage, motor vehicle damage, drug testing in the workplace, employee-assistance programs, and workers’ compensation