


# Cost Burdens of Societal Issues

*and potential cost savings to our nation if a problem is prevented*

Outcome	Estimated Annual Cost	Cost Current as of	Sources and Year
Alcohol abuse	\$185 billion	1998	Harwood, 2000
Smoking	\$138 billion	1995	Rice, 1999
 Hunger	\$90.4 billion	2005	Brown et al, 2007
Obesity/overweight	\$ 79 billion	1998	Finkelstein et al., 2003
Drug abuse	\$161 billion	2000	Office of National Drug Control Policy, 2001
Poverty	\$500 billion	2007*	Holzer, 2007

\* If not otherwise specified, we have assumed the years' dollars are the same as the publication year