

# The Impact of Behavioral Health Issues

- 🌟 Nearly one in five Americans — tens of millions of people — experience mental illness each year.
- 🌟 Adults in the U.S. living with serious mental illness die on average 25 years earlier than others, largely due to treatable medical conditions.
- 🌟 Nearly half the women and men living in homeless shelters have mental health and/or addiction issues, 20 percent of prison inmates have at least one mental health condition, and a staggering seven out of 10 youth in juvenile justice systems have mental health issues.
- 🌟 Only two out of every five people who need mental health care receive it, and African-Americans and Hispanic-Americans access mental health services only half as frequently as Caucasians.
- 🌟 Here in King County, adults who live in poverty go through serious psychological distress at four times the rate as other adults.
- 🌟 More than 20 million people in the United States are addicted to drugs and/or alcohol, but only about 3 million receive treatment.
- 🌟 Suicide is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the U.S. Sadly, it is an even more prevalent among young people, ranking as the third highest cause of death for children between the ages of 10 and 14 and the second leading cause of death for those aged 15 to 24. About 20 military veterans commit suicide each day.
- 🌟 As devastating as these issues are for those experiencing them, they are also costly to society. According to a study published in The American Journal of Psychiatry, serious mental illness costs America \$193.2 billion in lost earnings each year. Substance abuse costs the nation more than \$600 billion a year.

Recovery Happens Here!