



The Value of Prevention and How It Could Save Us All

*A Day For Prevention
Bismarck, ND*

Rodney A. Wambeam, PhD

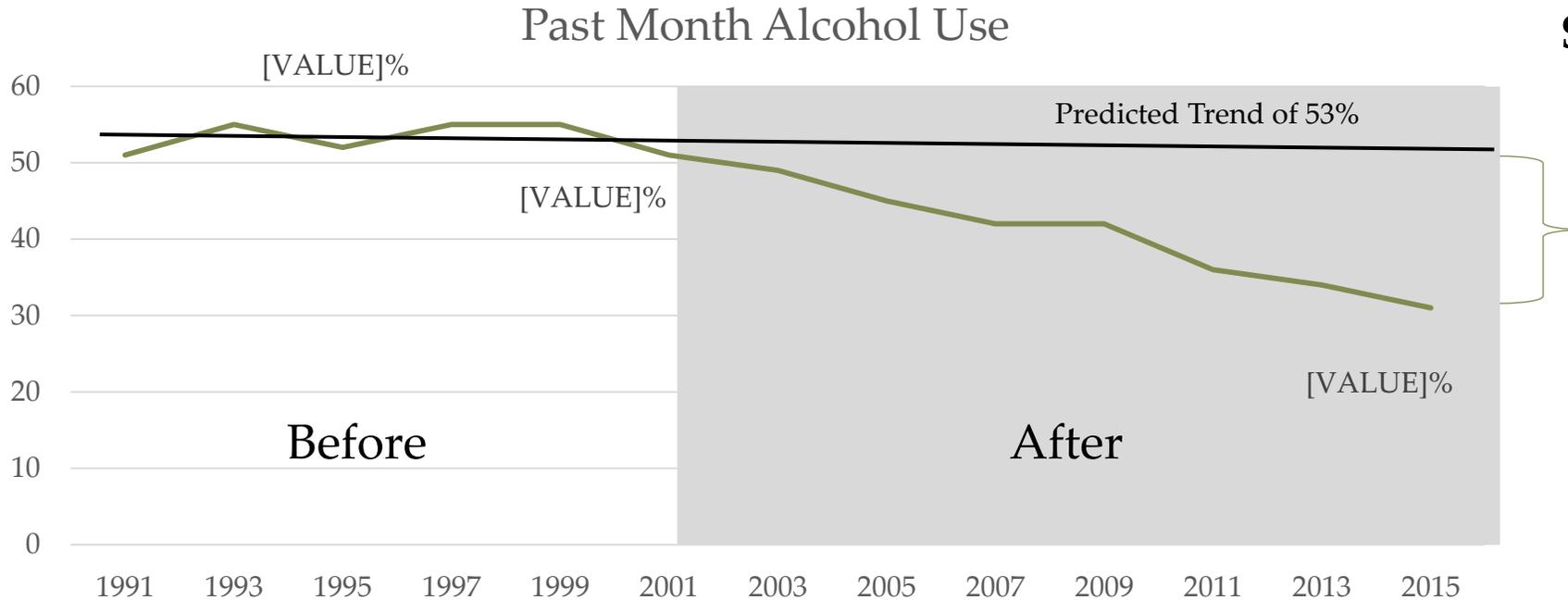
Poor Joseph Meister



“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”
-Benjamin Franklin

Potential Cost Savings in Wyoming

Alcohol costs Wyoming
\$843 million a year



40%
decrease

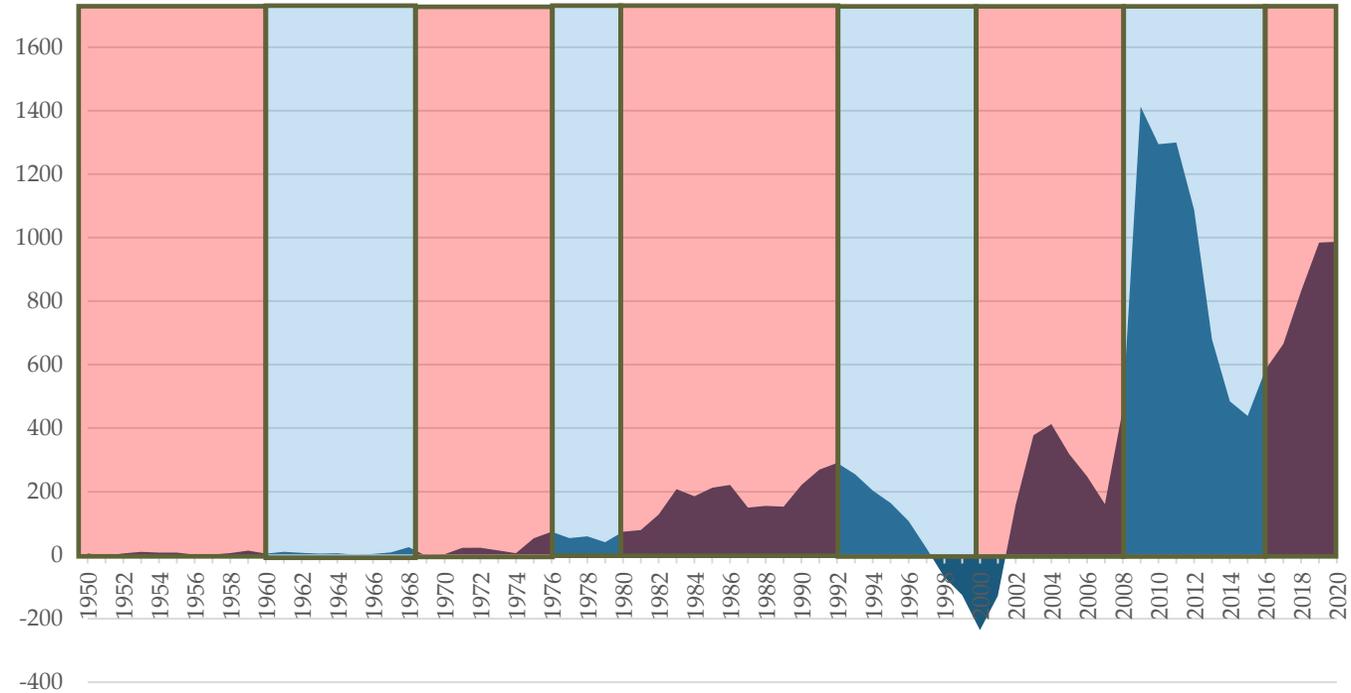
389
twelfth
graders

\$122 million
avoided cost

Data Source: Wyoming Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Report at: <https://wysac.uwyo.edu/wysac/projects/the-value-of-prevention-potential-cost-savings-from-delaying-youth-alcohol-use-in-wyoming/>
www.wysac.uwyo.edu

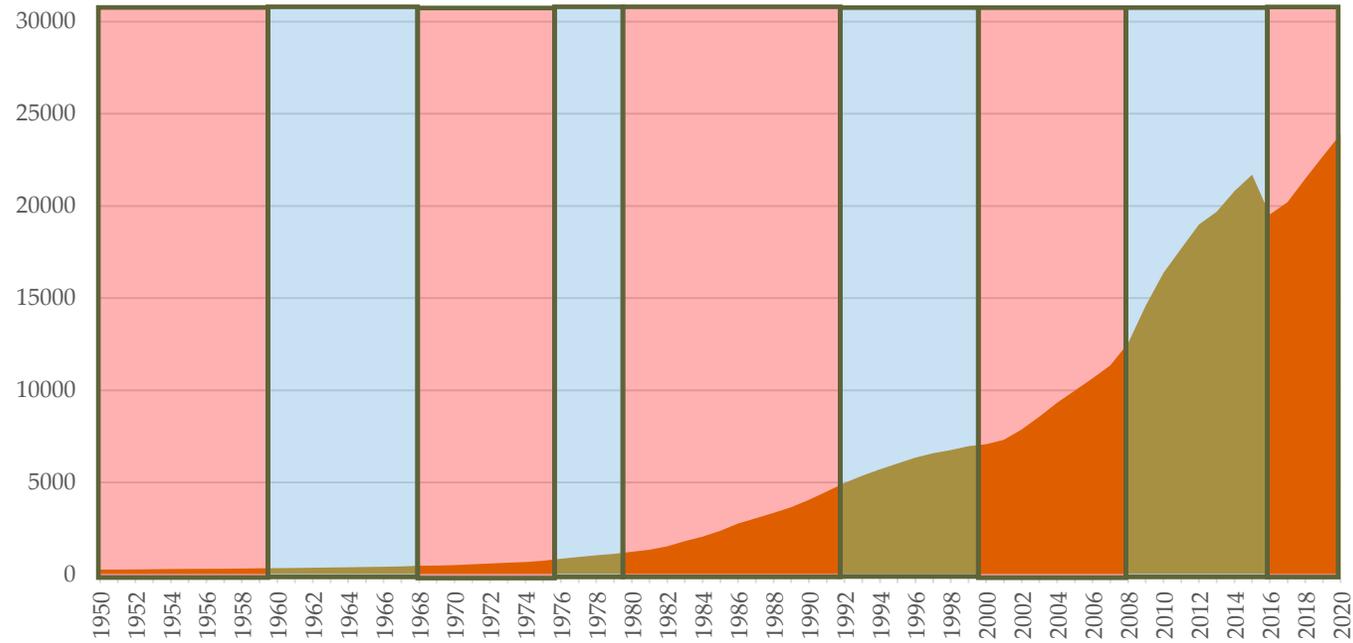
Politics and Problems in Billions of \$



Federal Deficit

Data Source: usgovernmentspending.com

Politics and Problems in Billions of \$



Federal Debt

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Typical Solutions

Keynesian Economics

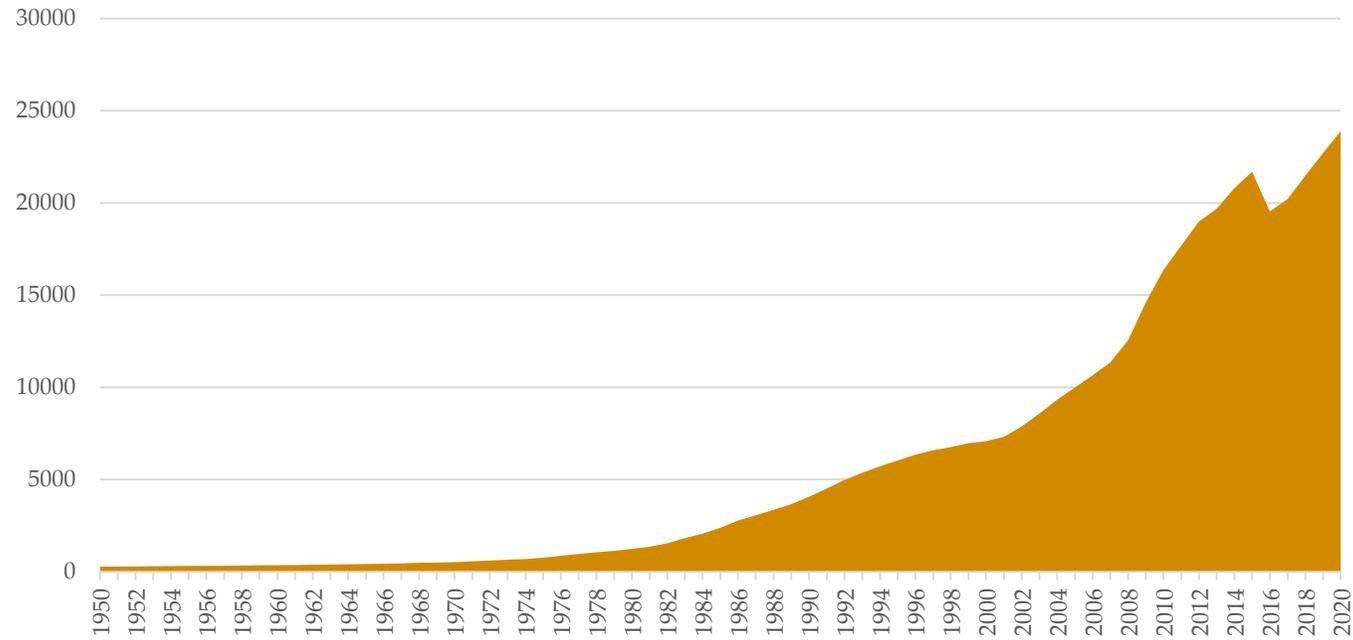
- Lower interest rates
- Invest in government infrastructure

Supply-Side Economics

- Lower taxes
- Less regulation

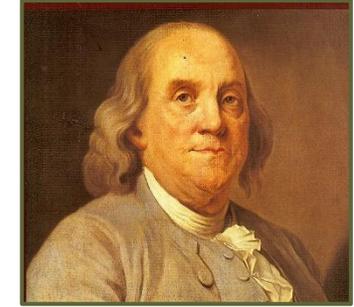
Spending or Cutting

The Other Story



Federal Debt

Data Source: [usgovernmentspending.com](https://www.usgovernmentspending.com)



Ben Franklin Actually Wrote

"In the first Place, as **an Ounce of Prevention is worth a Pound of Cure**, I would advise 'em to take care how they suffer living Coals in a full Shovel, to be carried out of one Room into another, or up or down Stairs, unless in a Warming pan shut; for Scraps of Fire may fall into Chinks and make no Appearance until Midnight; when your Stairs being in Flames, you may be forced, (as I once was) to leap out of your Windows, and hazard your Necks to avoid being oven-roasted."

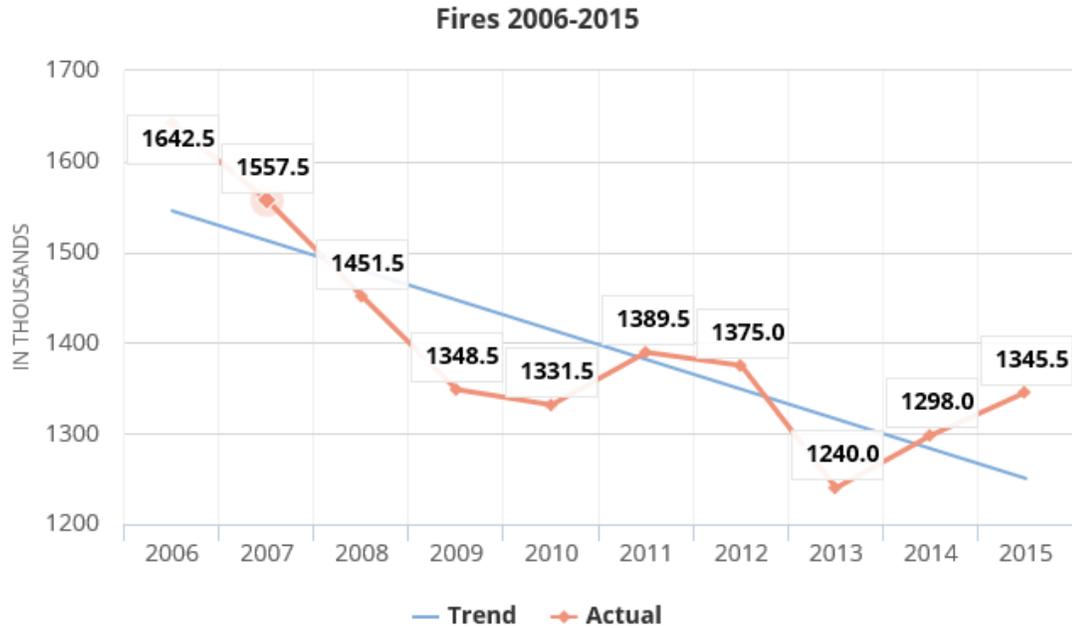
The First Job of First Responders



The Great Chicago Fire of 1871

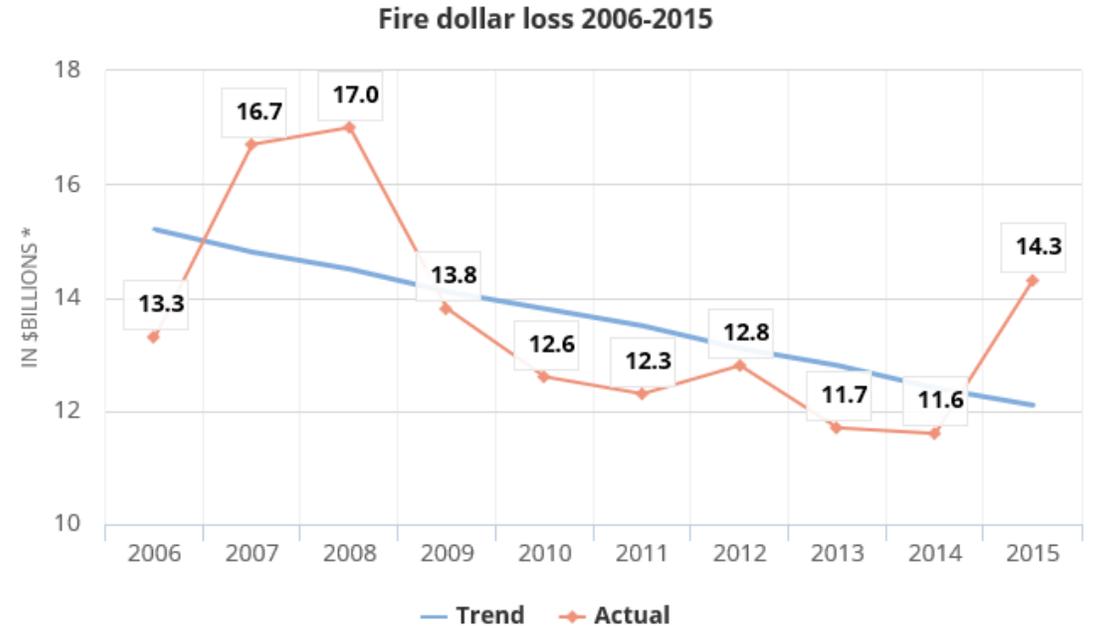
Fire Prevention
Week Since
1922

Fire Prevention Works



US Fires in Thousands

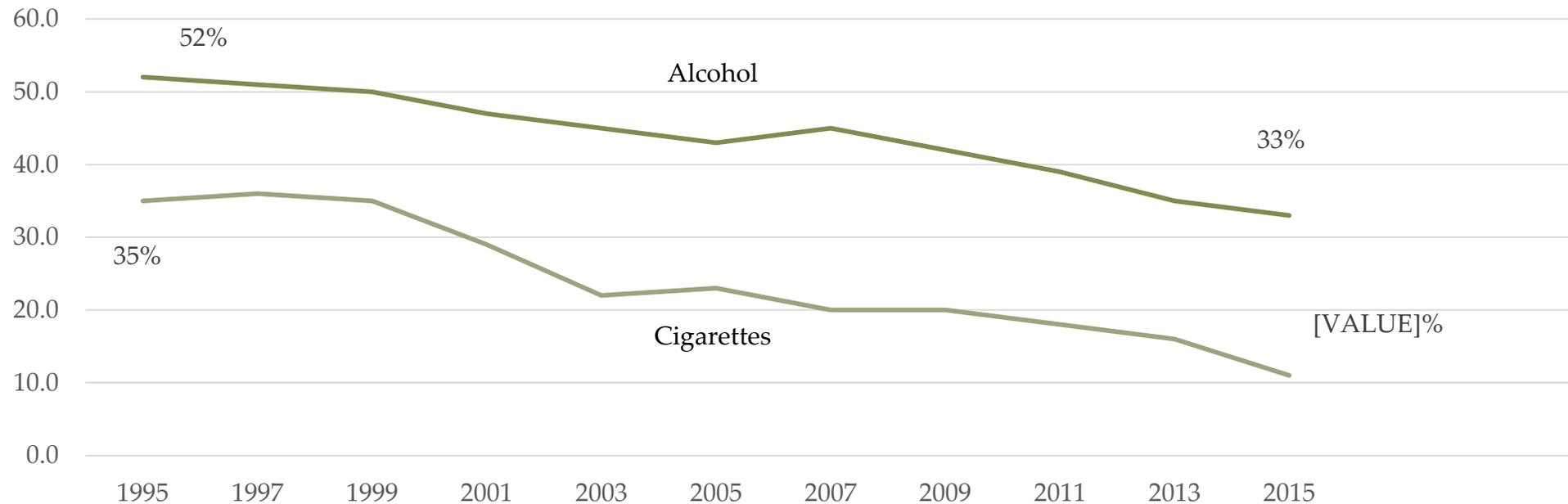
Data Source: usfa.fema.gov



US Fire Cost in Billions

Substance Abuse Prevention Works

US Past Month Alcohol and Tobacco Use Among Teens



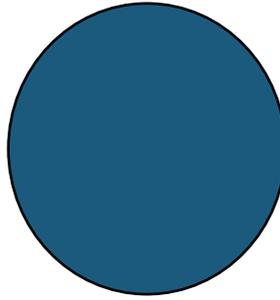
Data Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey at cdc.gov

Cost in Wyoming



Alcohol
Abuse
\$843
Million

Alcohol
Treatment
\$36 Million



Alcohol
Prevention
\$7 Million

What If?



Prevention

A Simple Suggestion

It is the job of every elected official as well as every local, state, and federal employee to first consider how to prevent the need for government services. Only then will we start measuring our problems in ounces rather than pounds.



Thank You!

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