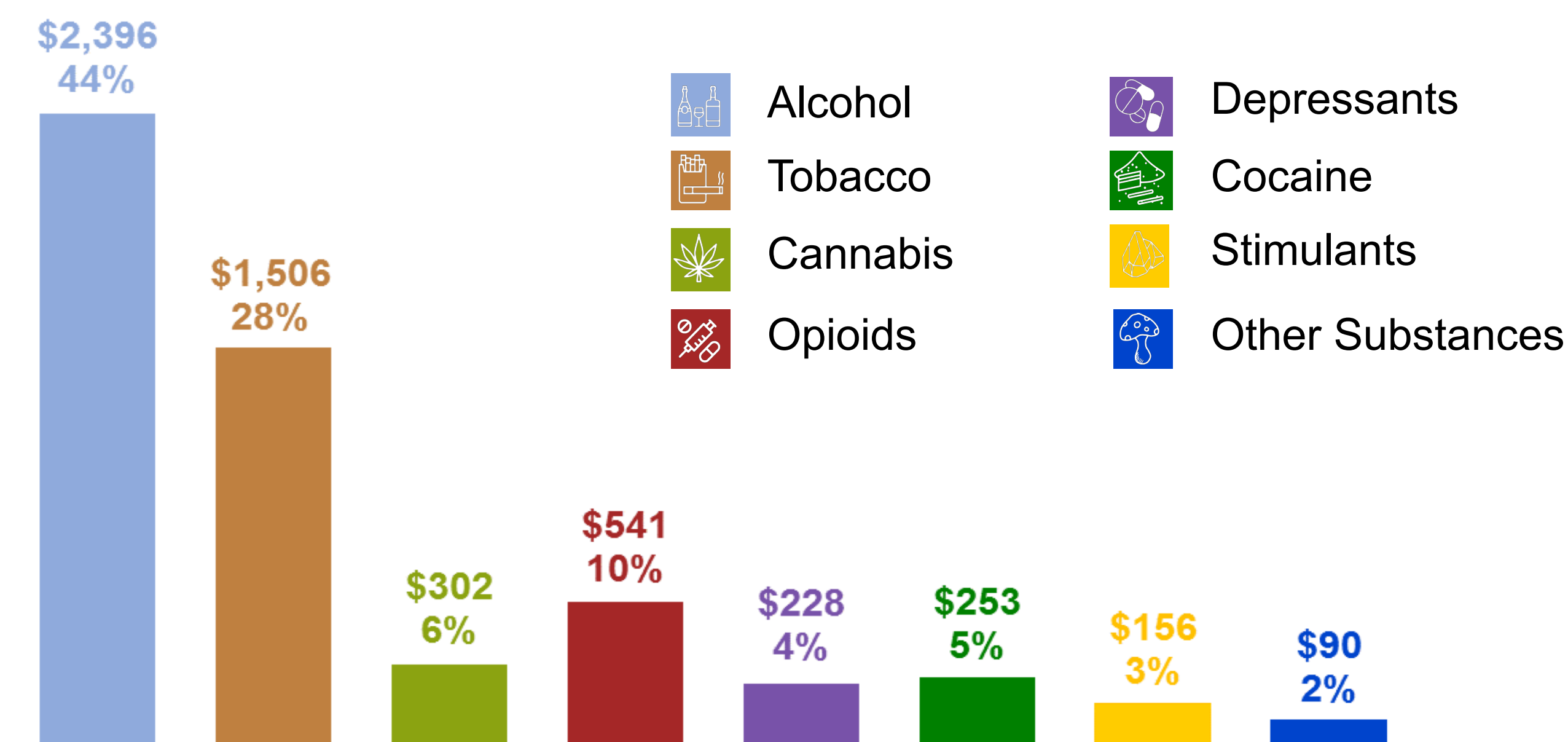


# Economic Costs of Substance Use in Alberta



2007-2014

## Economic costs of substances in 2014 (in millions)



\*Percentages have been rounded to nearest whole number and may not add up to 100%

In 2014, substance use cost the Albertan economy

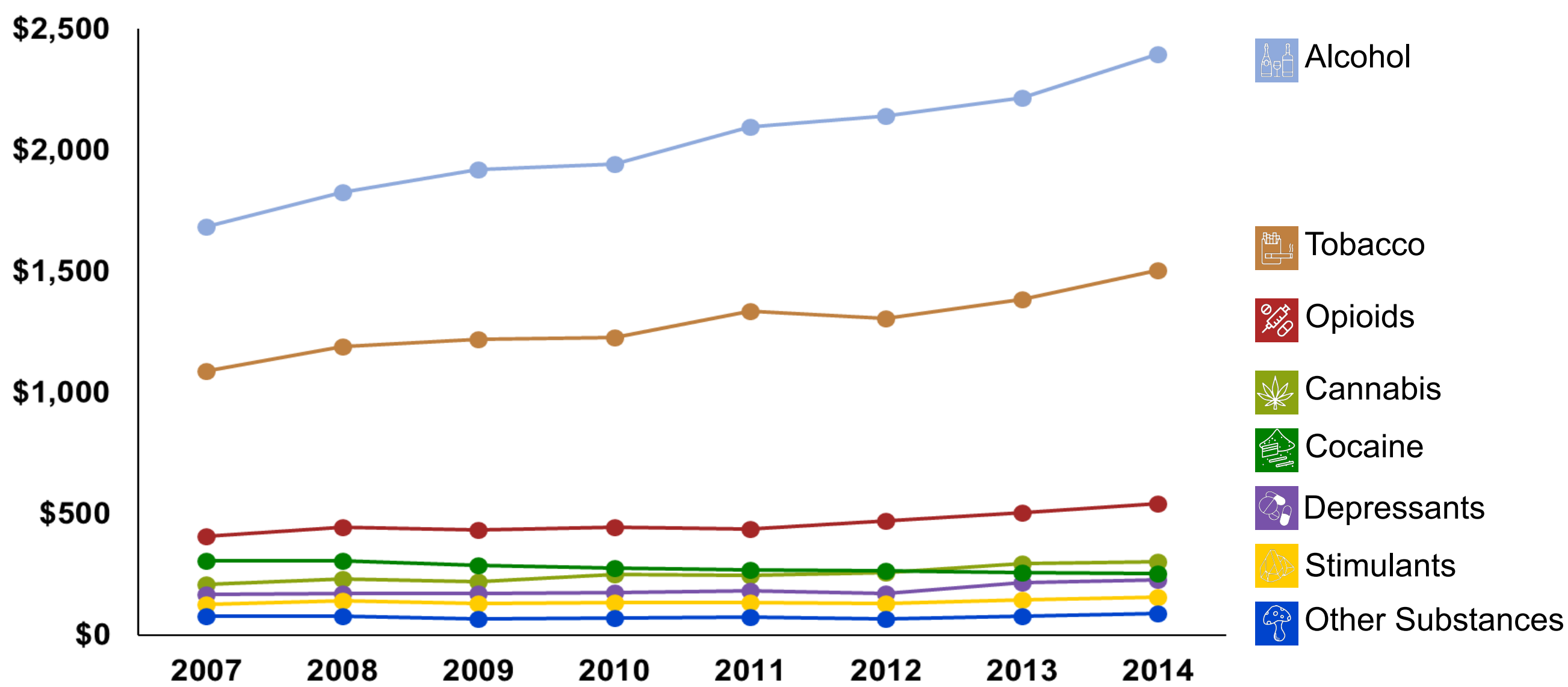
# \$5.5 BILLION

amounting to \$1,332 per capita, regardless of age.



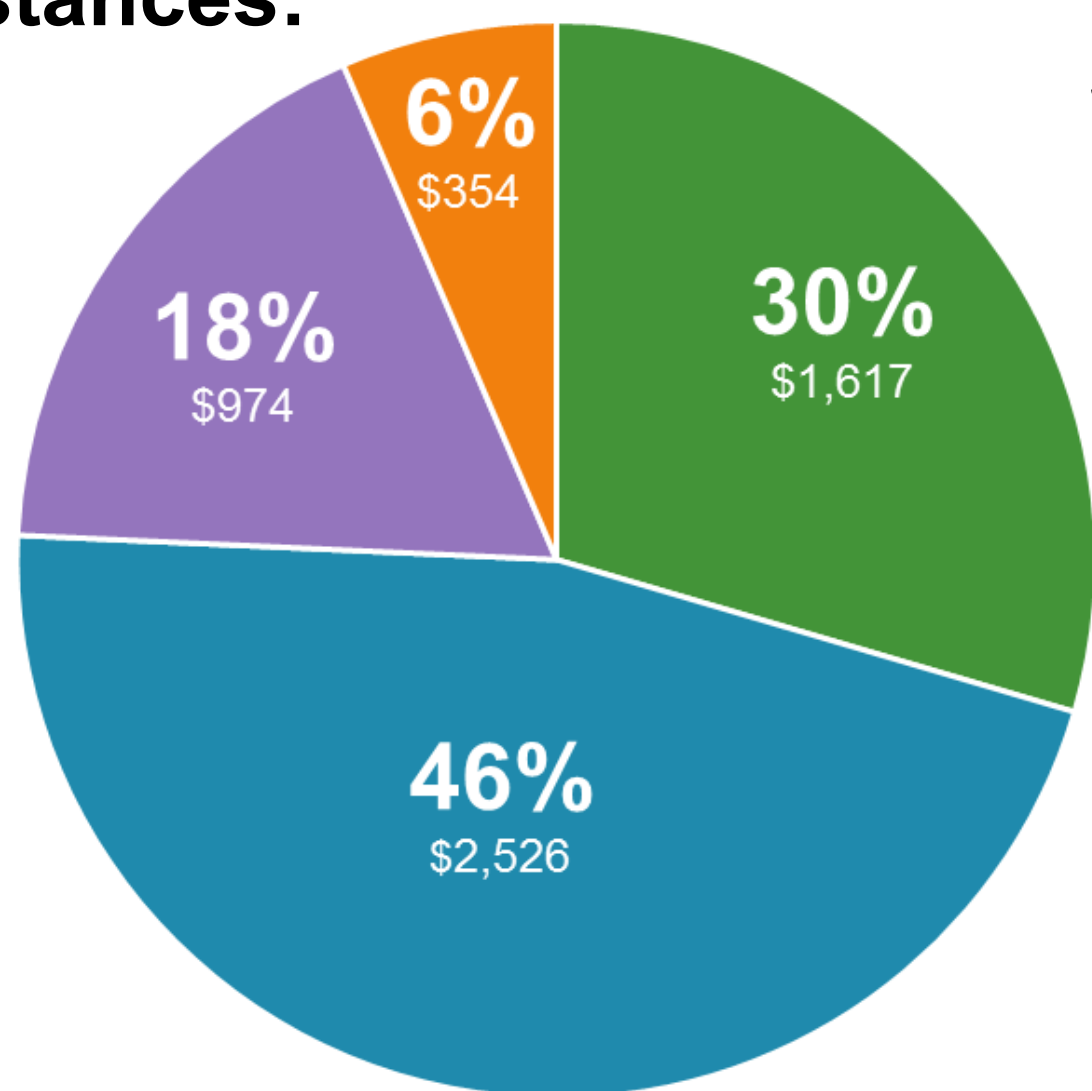
Compared to \$38.4 billion or \$1,081 per capita in Canada.

## Economic costs of substances over time (in millions)



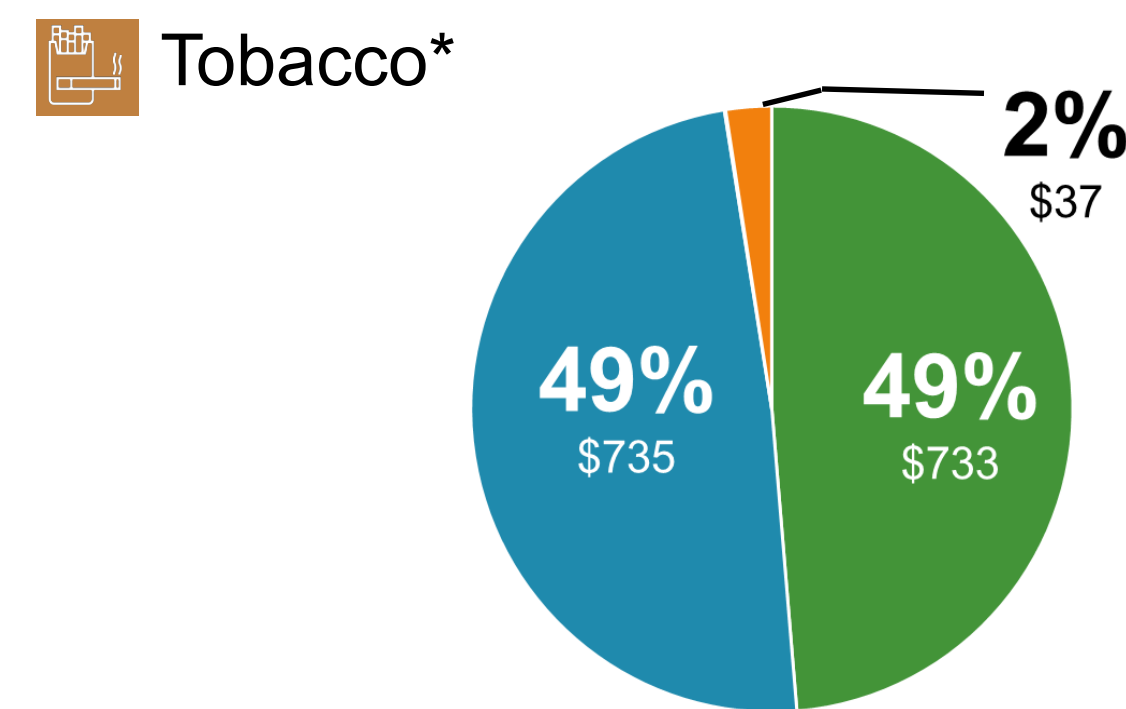
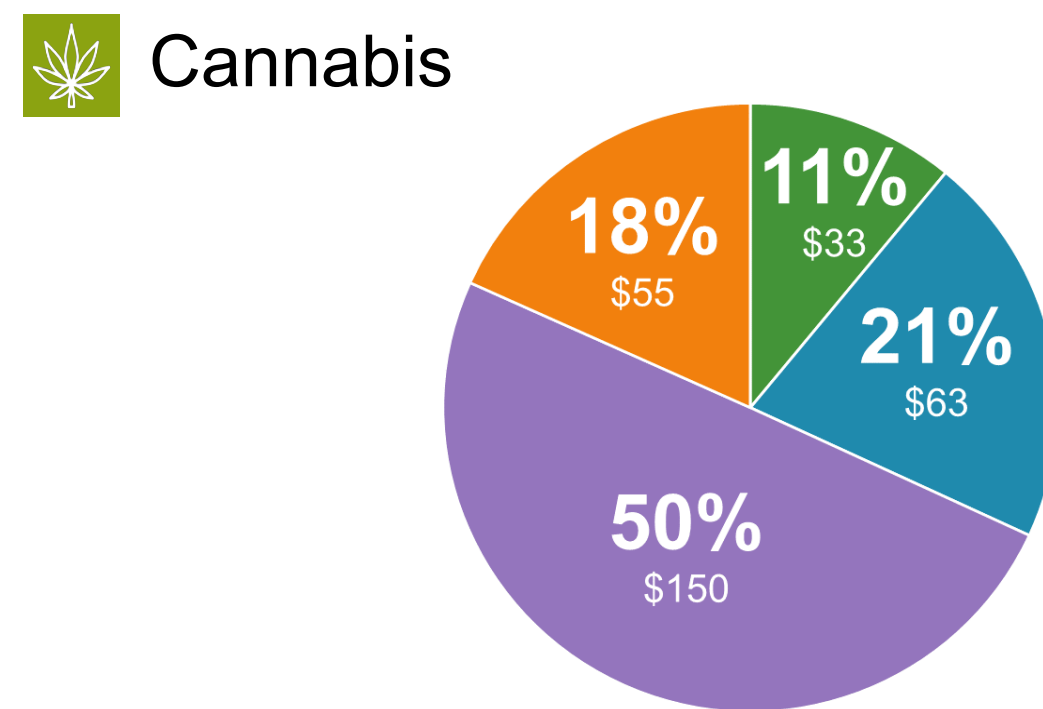
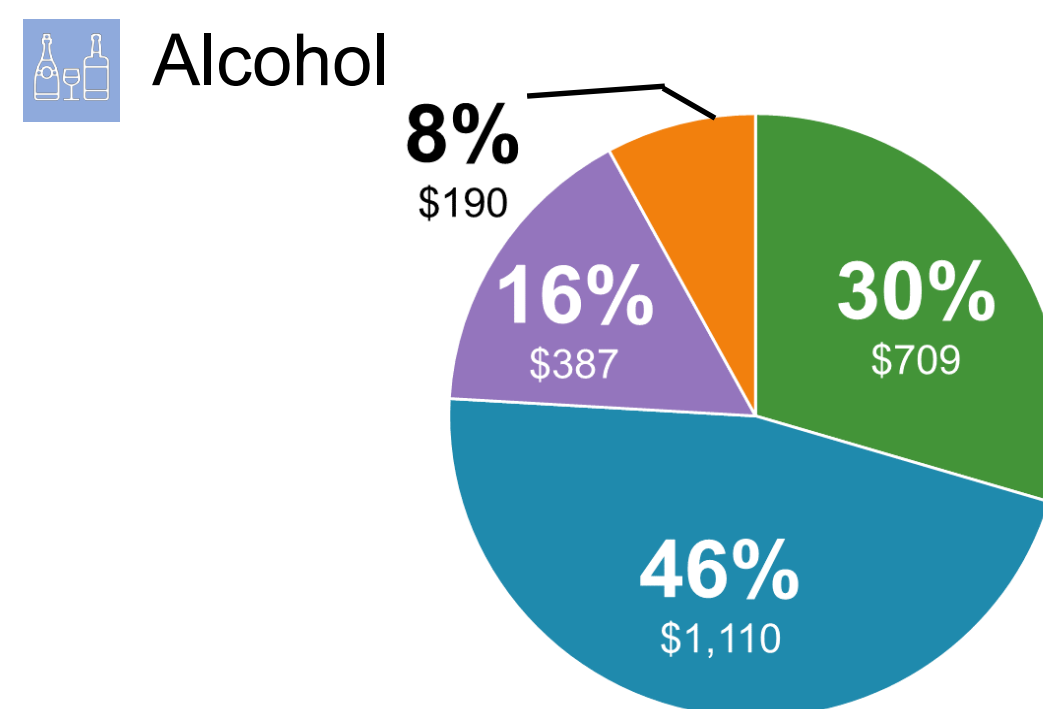
## Economic costs of substance use by cost category in 2014 (in millions)

All Substances:

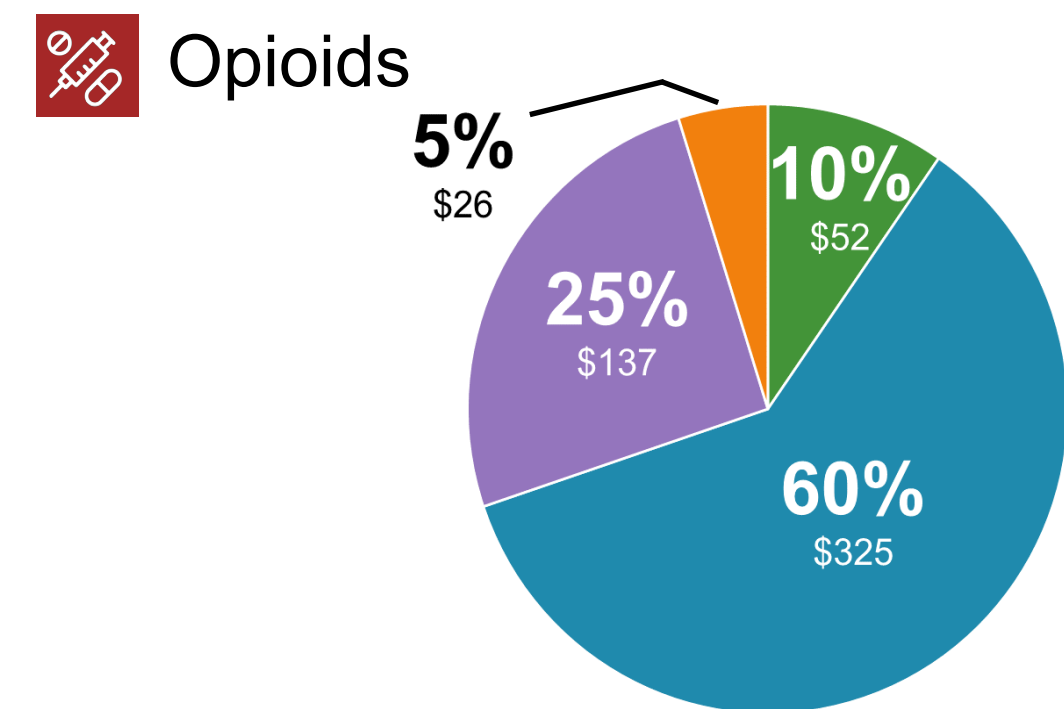


Healthcare  
Lost Productivity  
Criminal Justice  
Other Direct

Top 4 Substances:



\*Criminal Justice costs equalled less than 1% (\$1 million)



## 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



# Canadian Substance Use Economic Costs

2007-2014

In 2014, substance use cost the Canadian economy

**\$38.4 BILLION**

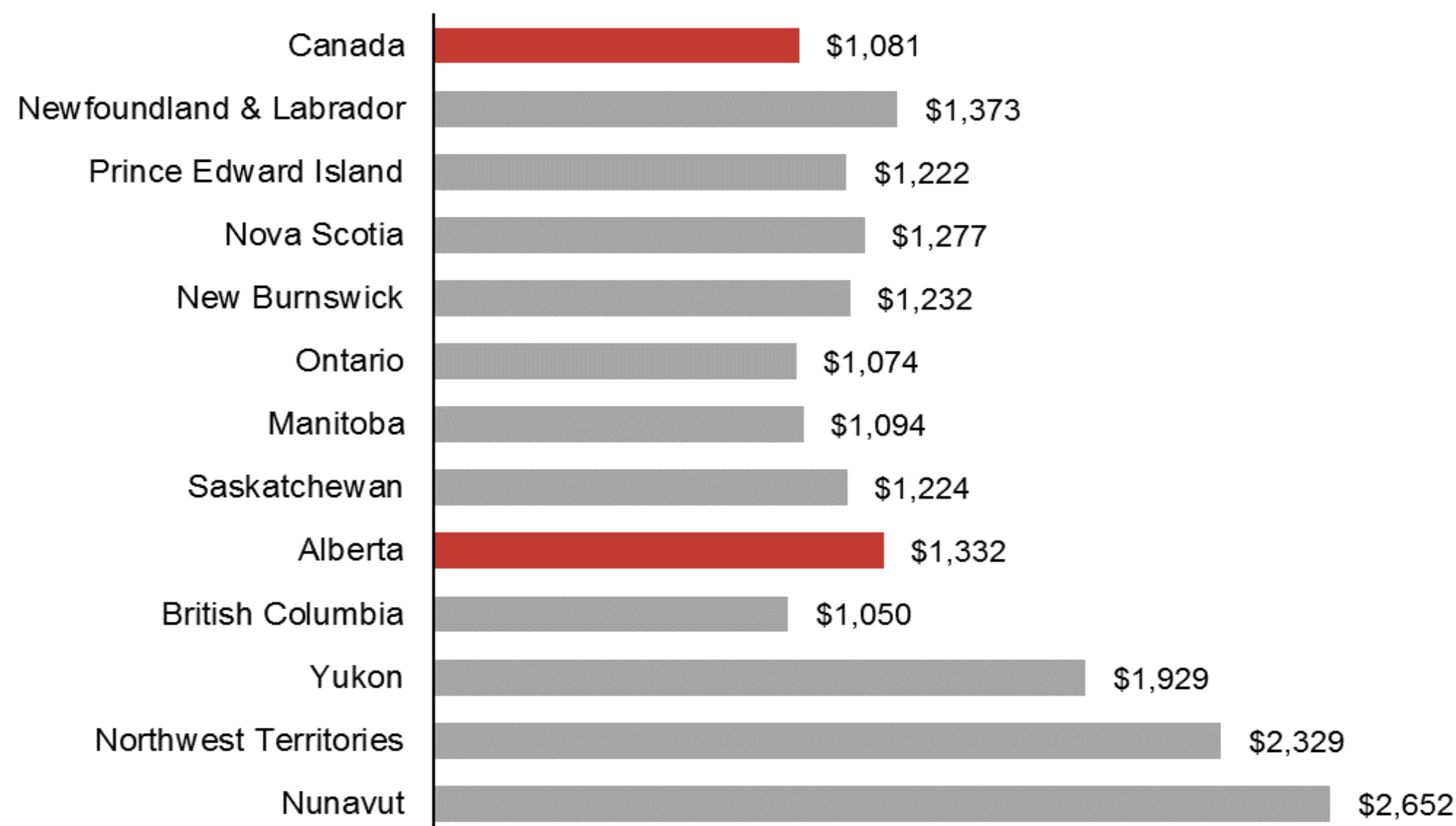


In 2014, substance use cost the Albertan economy

**\$5.5 BILLION**



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



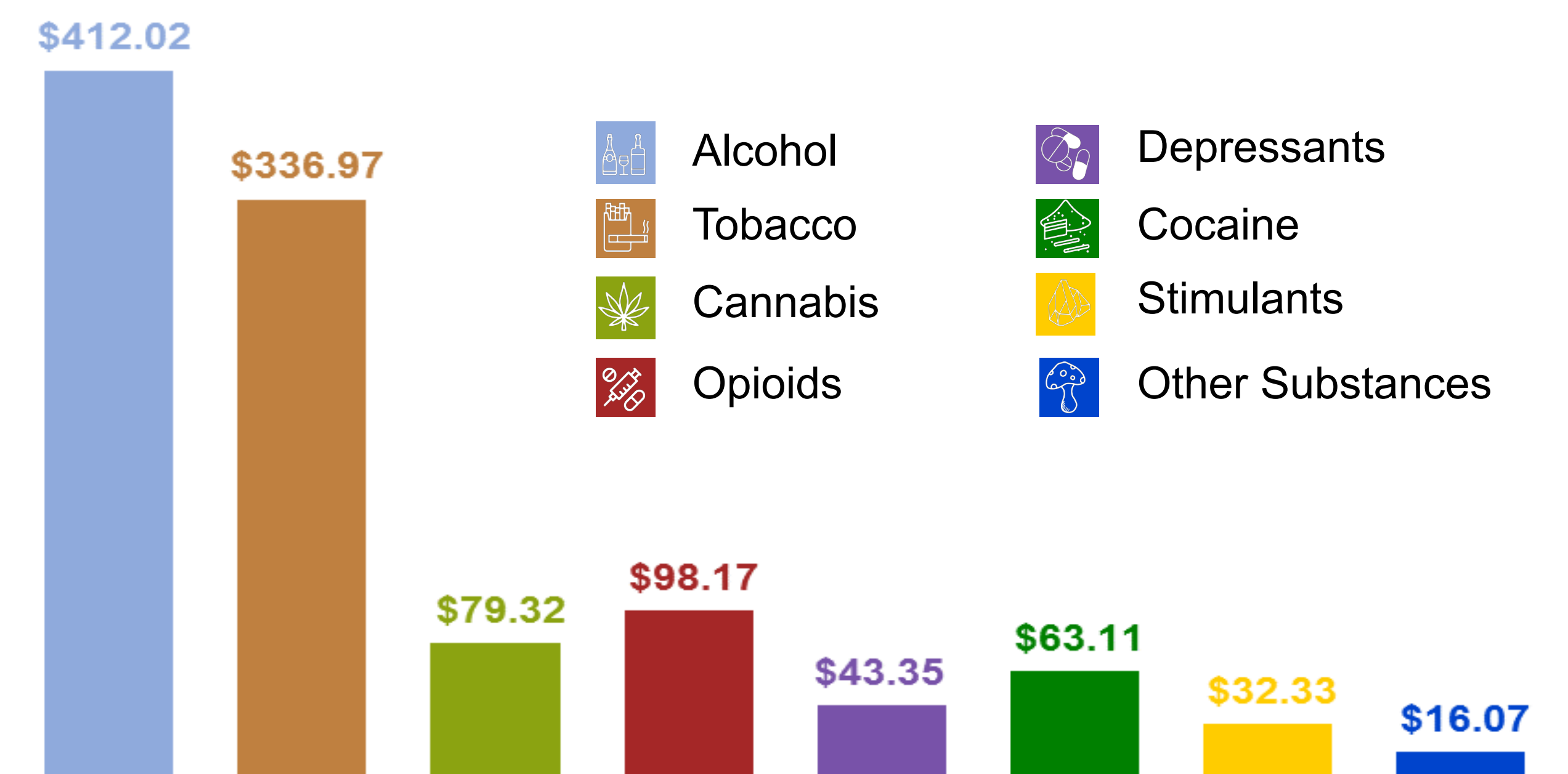
In 2014, the economic cost of substance use was **\$1,081** spent for every Canadian, regardless of age.

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

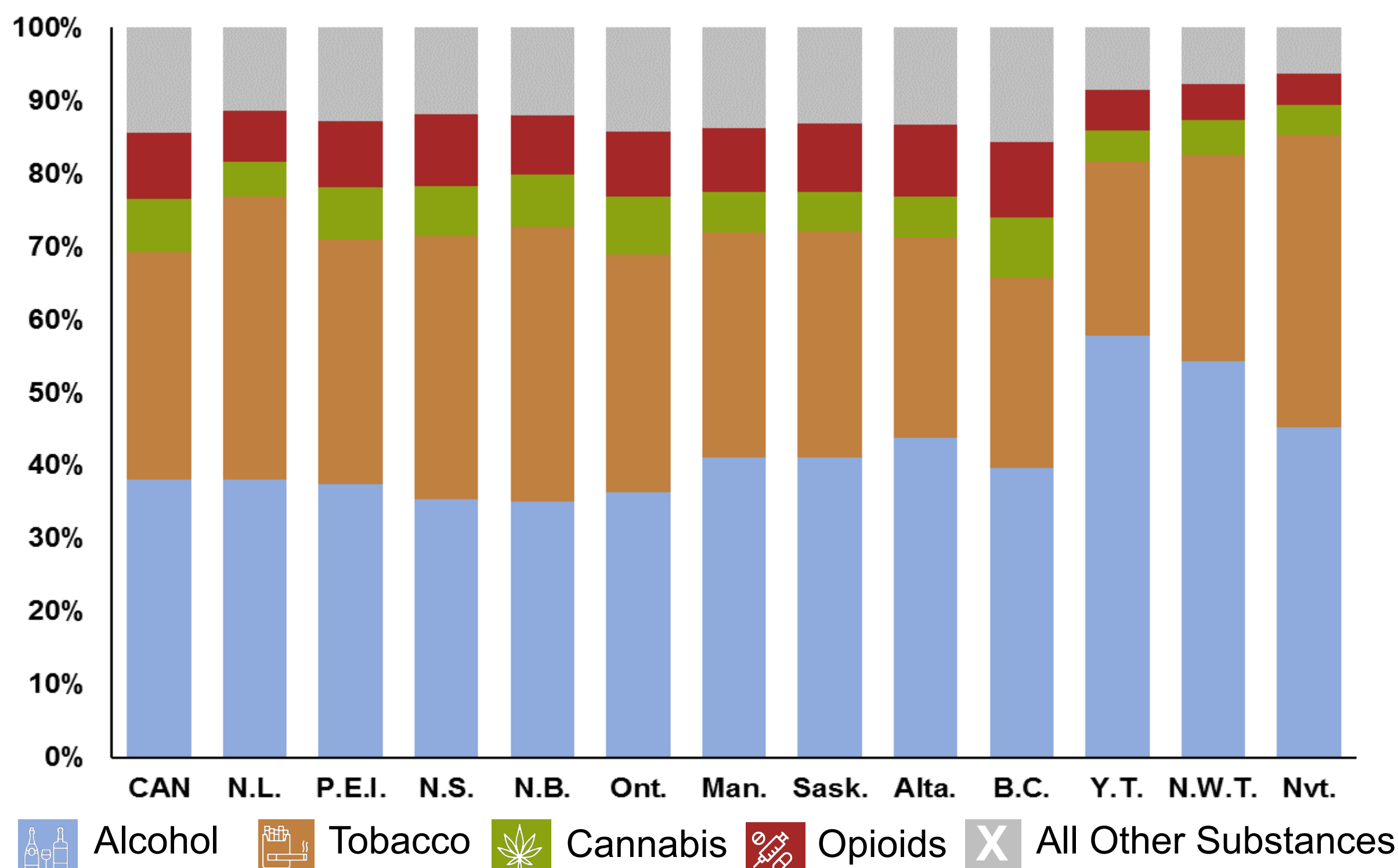
\*Meaningful per capita costs for Quebec could not be calculated

## 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%).

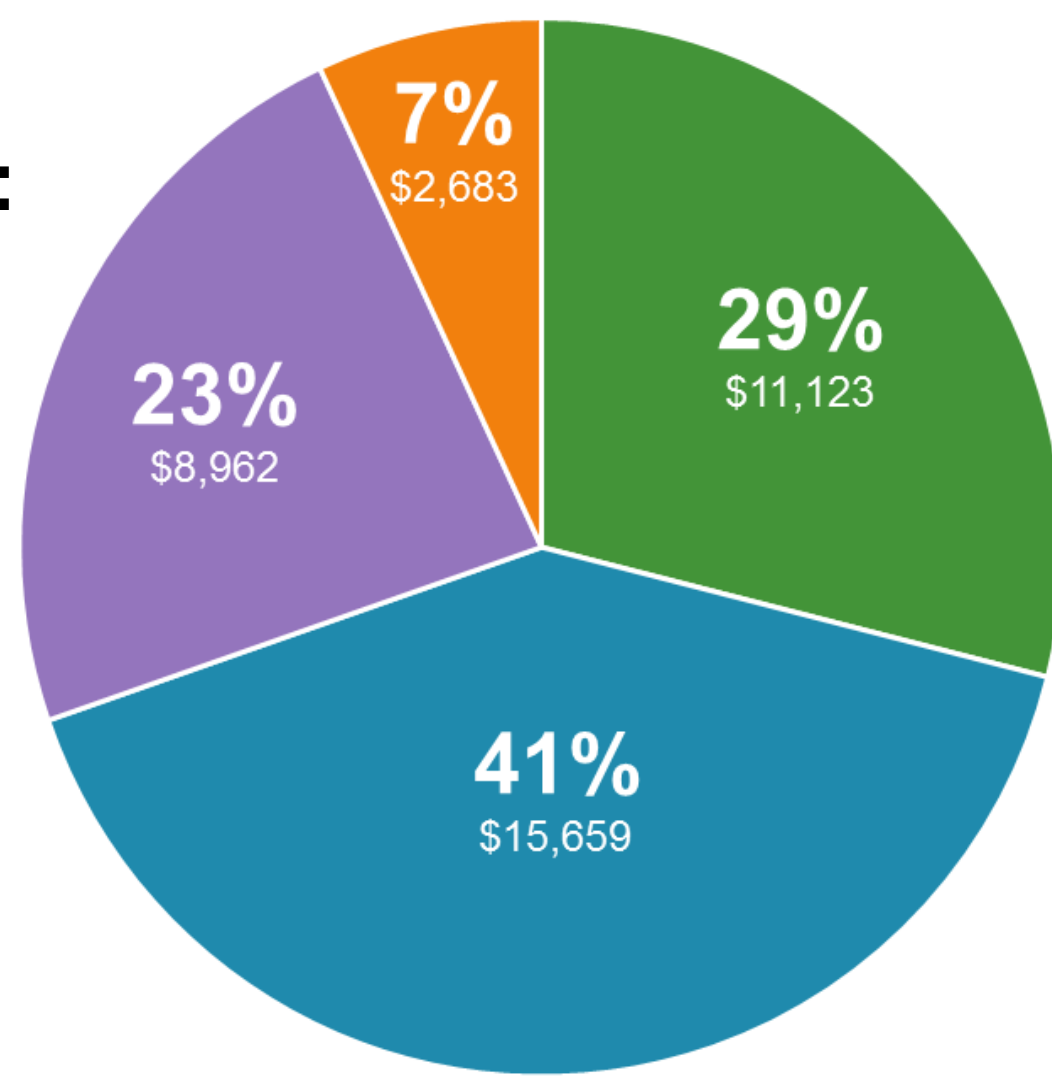
\*Meaningful costs for Quebec could not be calculated



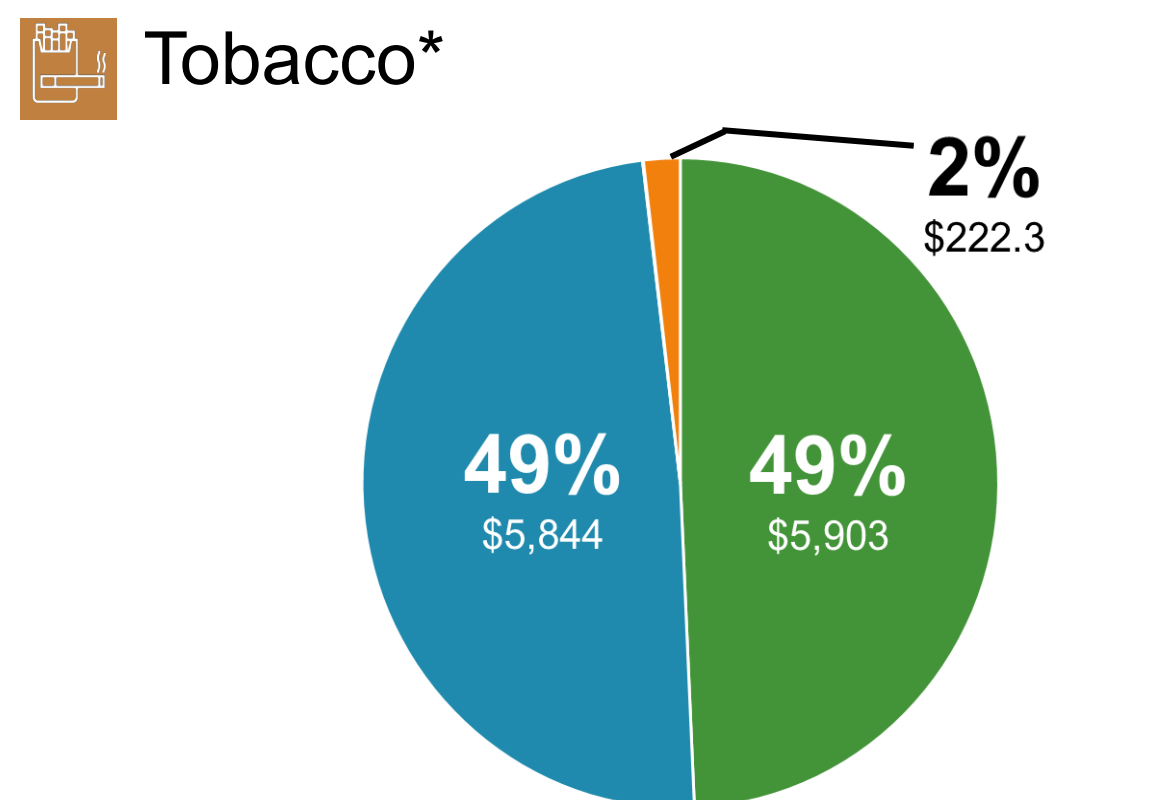
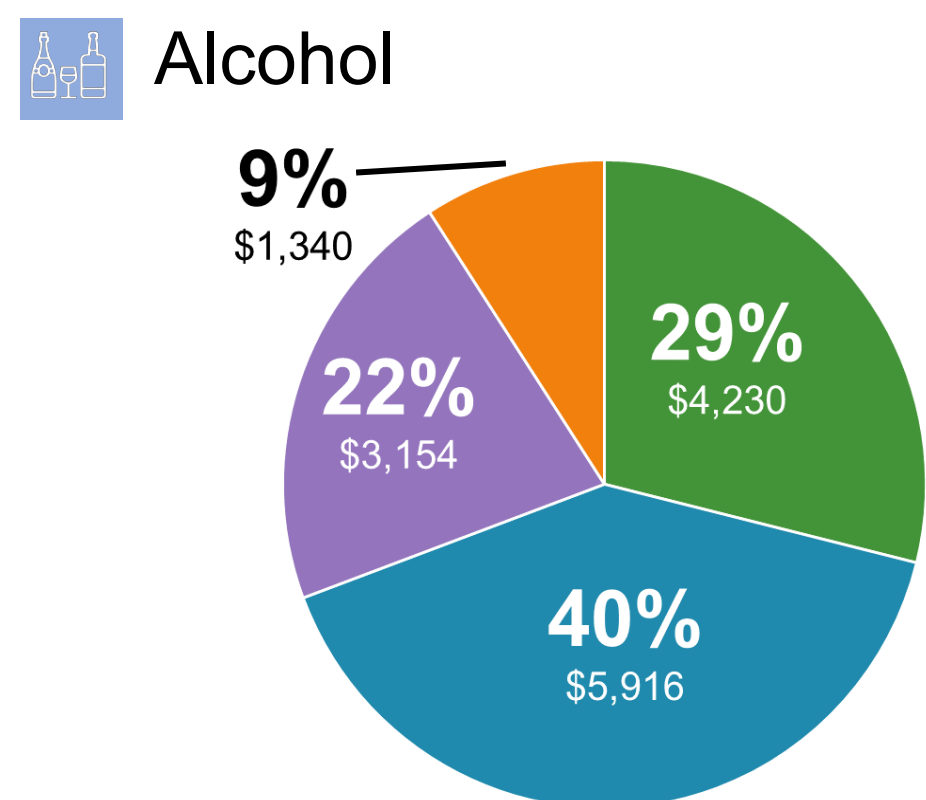
# Economic costs of substance use by cost category in 2014 (in millions)

## Canada

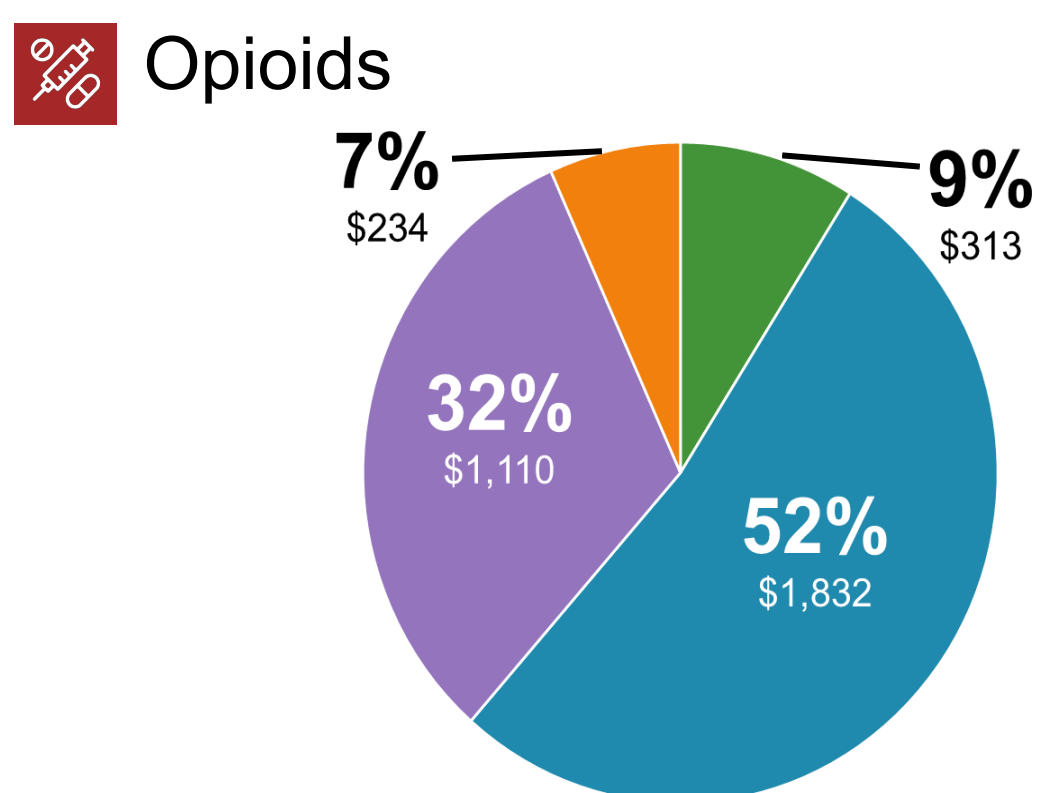
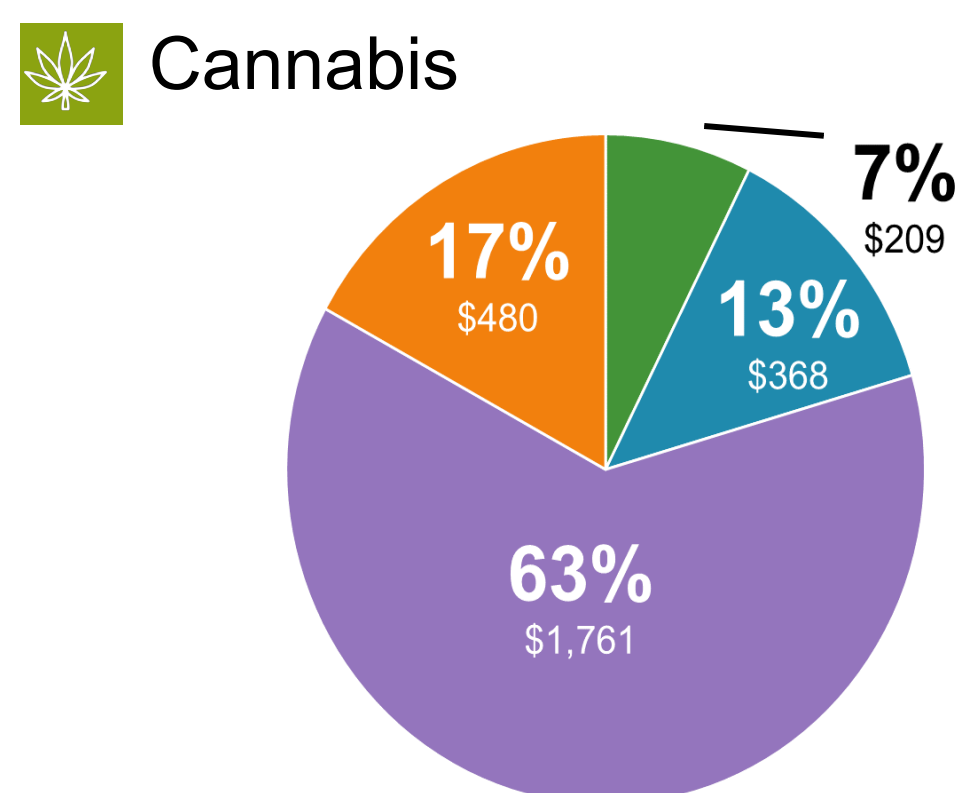
### All Substances:



### Top 4 Substances:

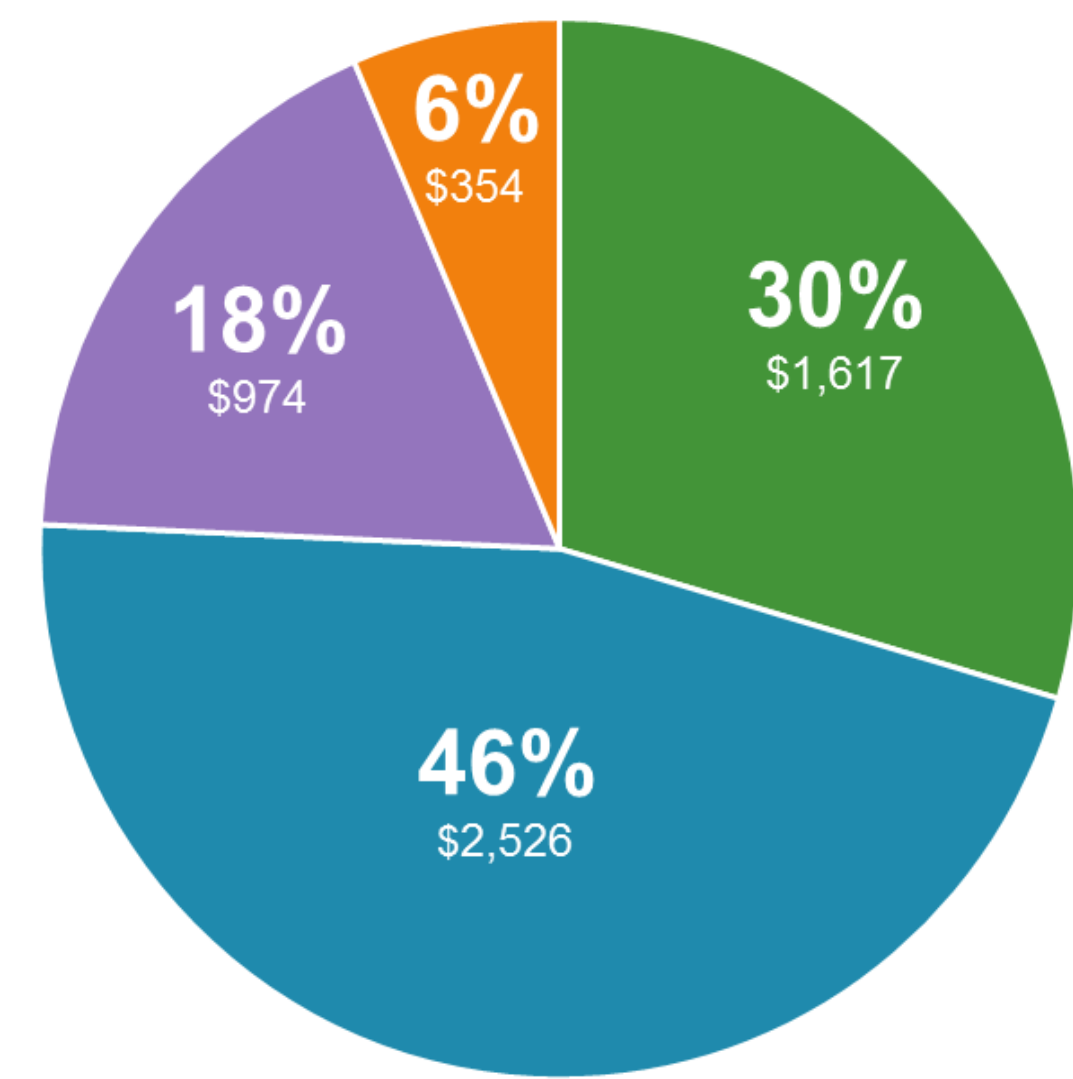


\*Criminal Justice costs equalled less than 1% (\$0.0 million)

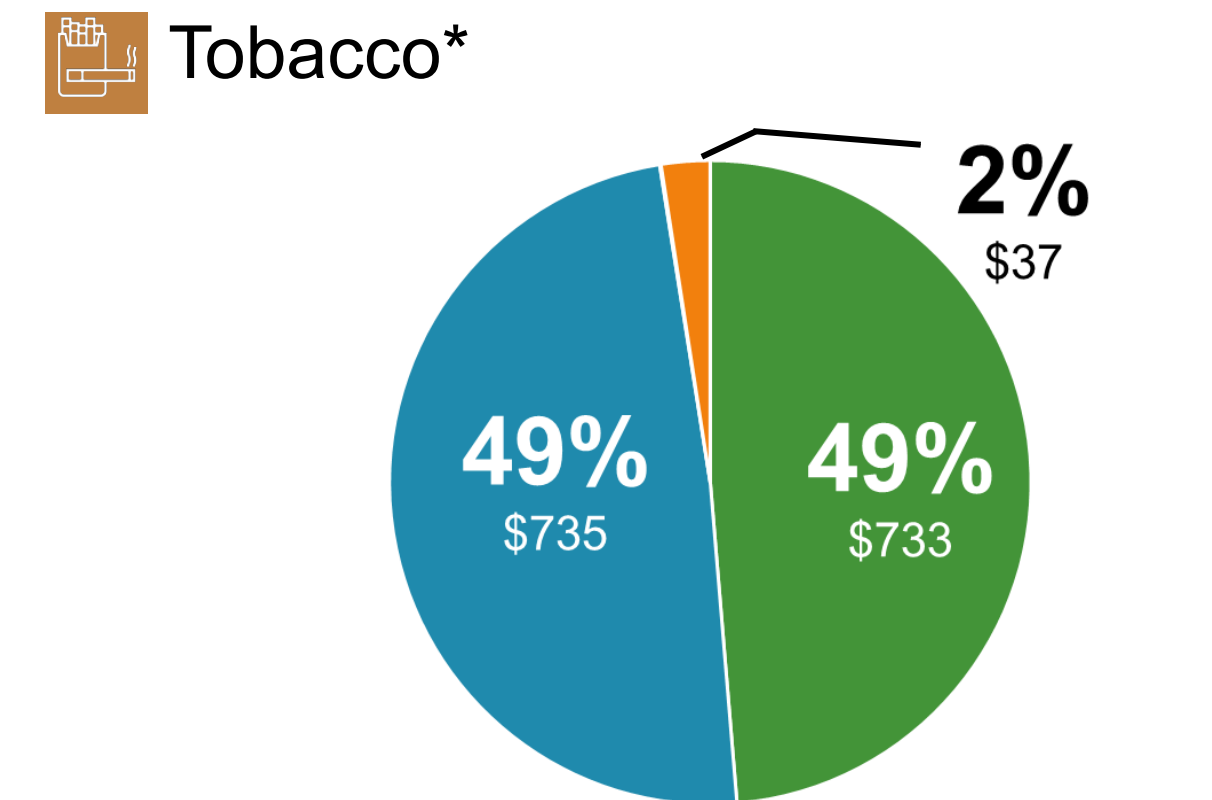
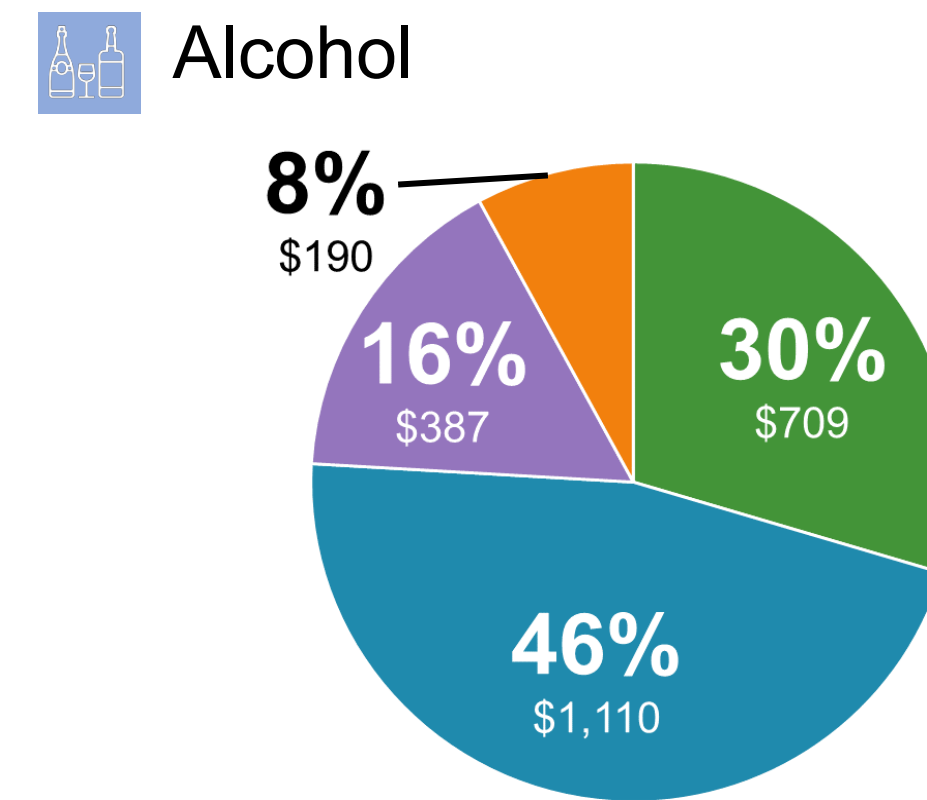


## Alberta

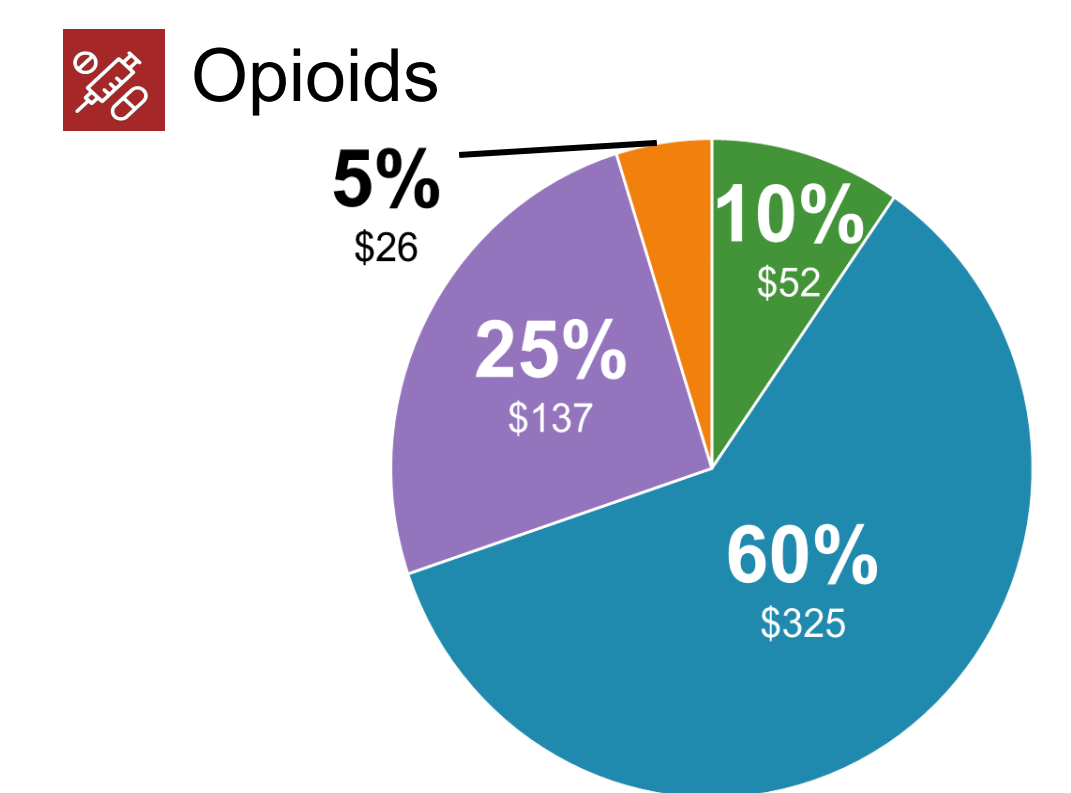
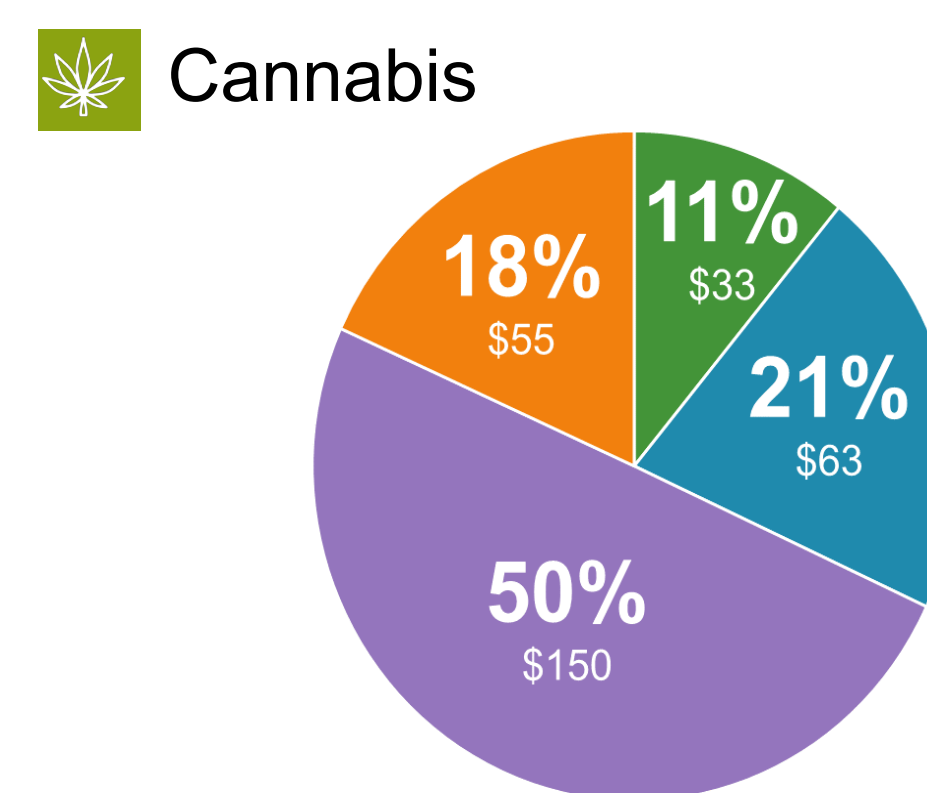
### All Substances:



### Top 4 Substances:



\*Criminal Justice costs equalled less than 1% (\$1 million)



## 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
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