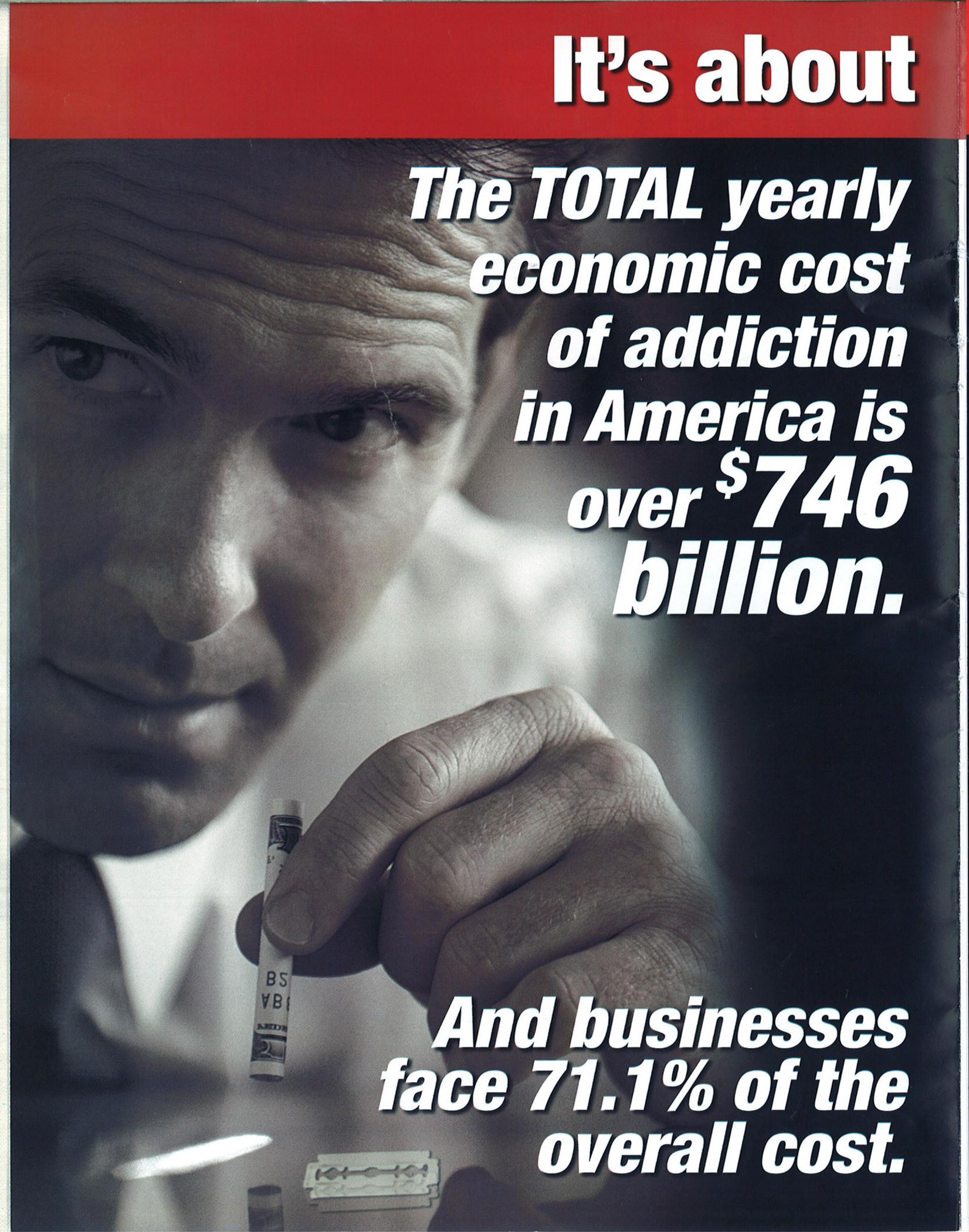


**This is  
not just  
about  
drugs.**

~~ADDICTION~~  
COALITION



A black and white photograph of a man in a suit, looking down with a serious expression at a rolled-up bill held in his hand. A razor blade is visible on the surface below. The background is dark and out of focus.

**It's about**

***The TOTAL yearly  
economic cost  
of addiction  
in America is  
over \$746  
billion.***

***And businesses  
face 71.1% of the  
overall cost.***

# **COLD, HARD FACTS.**

**Substance abuse is the #1 health issue facing our nation according to the Center for Disease Control.**

**Addiction has the highest treatment cost for the major health issues in our country.**

<b>Addiction</b>	<b>\$346 billion</b>
<b>Heart Disease</b>	<b>\$316 billion</b>
<b>Cancer</b>	<b>\$171 billion</b>
<b>Diabetes</b>	<b>\$131 billion</b>

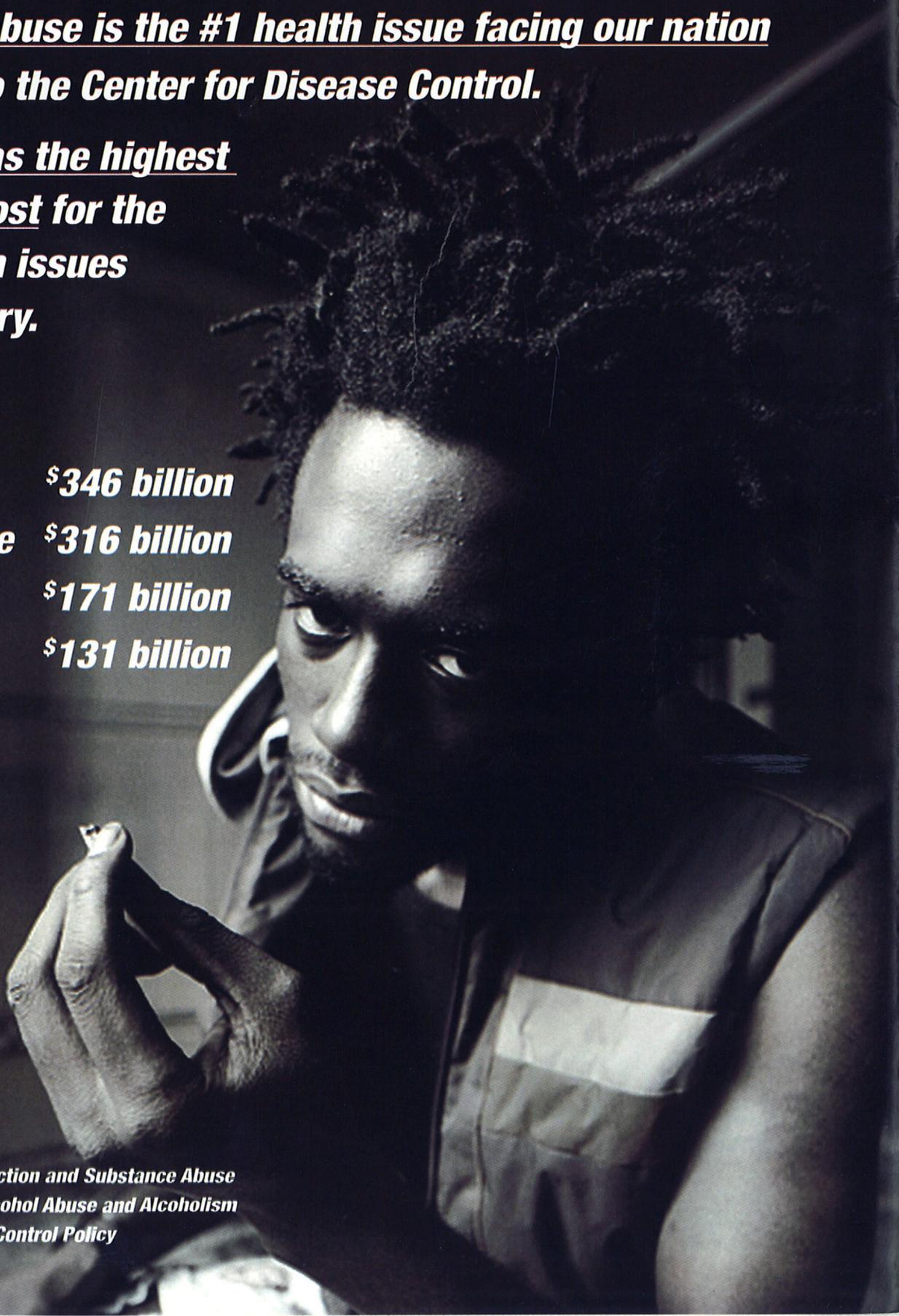
**Sources:**

*Department of Justice*

*National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse*

*National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism*

*Office of National Drug Control Policy*



# our community response

**70% of those in our prisons are there for drug- and alcohol-related crime.**

–Chief A.C. Roper,  
Birmingham Police Department

**4.3% of our 8th graders use drugs on a daily basis. That number nearly triples by the time they become Seniors.**

–Alabama Pride Survey

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Active, healthy communities address problems head on and work for change. Our community has long recognized the need to help curb crime, improve access to health care, minister to and educate those affected by HIV/AIDS, fight against school dropouts, teen pregnancies and teen suicide, battle against homelessness and put an end to domestic violence. What has not been well recognized in our efforts is that substance abuse – drug and alcohol addiction – is a MAJOR contributing factor in ALL of these challenges.

**The Addiction Coalition was formed to establish a strategy to help eliminate addiction in our community, Central Alabama.**



# e to our #1 problem.



## The Addiction Coalition is putting the “how” into the solution process:

- 1.** We started by creating a comprehensive database to help identify the resources in our community – all in one place – so help can be found quickly. Please visit [www.thefreedomsorce.com](http://www.thefreedomsorce.com).
- 2.** We are implementing a multi-faceted approach to youth drug prevention including character and values education, and assistance to parents in identifying and encouraging peer-to-peer mentoring so our youth can help create solutions.
- 3.** We helped organize the Birmingham Recovery Network as part of the Health Action Partnership bringing providers together to encourage collaboration and accountability.
- 4.** Initiating awareness: to help our entire community understand the problem—before it gets personal in your family or in your business.

## We need your support.

*Substance abuse – drug and alcohol addiction – is not mindful of race, religion, gender, social standing, age or geography. The battle is real. But we can win the battle – together. Get involved! [www.addictioncoalition.org](http://www.addictioncoalition.org)*

## Join the Addiction Coalition today.

# COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

Dr. Neal Berte  
*Birmingham Southern College*

Honorable Drayton Nabers, Jr.  
*Maynard Cooper & Gale PC*

Tommy Brigham  
*Ark Real Estate Strategies*

Kate Nielsen  
*Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham*

Kate Cotton  
*Protective Life Foundation*

Chief A.C. Roper  
*City of Birmingham*

Dr. Gary Fenton  
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Ann Florie  
*Leadership Birmingham*

Rev. Thomas Wilder  
*Bethel Baptist Church*

Drew Langloh  
*United Way of Central Alabama*

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Rev. J. Sándor Cheka, III  
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Steve Briggs  
*Board Chair*

~~ADDICTION~~  
COALITION

an initiative of

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