

Telecare Corporation



Mental Health Fact Sheet

- Mental illnesses are more common than cancer, diabetes, or heart disease. Mental disorders are the leading cause of disability in North America, Europe, and increasingly, the world.
- One in every five Americans age 18 and older (23%) is affected by a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year, but only half report that it impairs of their daily functioning.
- The most serious and disabling conditions -- such as bipolar disorder, schizophrenia or major depression -- affect five to ten million adults (2.6 to 5.4%) in the United States.
- Mental illnesses are treatable. Most people with serious mental illness need medication to help control symptoms, but also rely on supportive counseling, self-help groups, assistance with housing, vocational rehabilitation, and other community services to achieve their highest level of recovery.
- The best treatments for serious mental illness today are highly effective. Between 70 and 90 percent of individuals have significant reduction of symptoms and improved quality of life with a combination of pharmacological and psychosocial treatments and supports.
- Without treatment, the consequences of mental illness for the individual and society are staggering: unnecessary disability, unemployment, substance abuse, homelessness, inappropriate incarceration, and the loss of meaning and value in life. The economic cost of untreated mental illness is more than 100 billion dollars each year in the United States. Mental illness, including suicide, account for over 15 percent of the burden of disease in established market economies such as the United States. This is more than the burden caused by all cancers.
- Approximately 20 to 25 percent of the single adult homeless population suffers from some form of severe and persistent mental illness.
- According to the Federal Task Force on Homelessness and Severe Mental Illness, only 5-7% of homeless persons with mental illness need to be institutionalized; most can live in the community with appropriate supportive housing options.

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<http://www.nationalhomeless.org/mental.html>

National Institute for Mental Health

“...the burden of psychiatric conditions has been heavily underestimated: The Impact of Mental Illness on Society.”

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/publicat/burden.cfm>

National Institute for Mental Health

“The Numbers Count: Mental Disorders in America”

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/publicat/numbers.cfm>