



Mental Illness: FACTS AND NUMBERS

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- One in four adults - approximately 57.7 million Americans - experience a mental health disorder in a given year. One in 17 lives with a serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, major depression or bipolar disorder¹ and about one in 10 children live with a serious mental or emotional disorder.²
- About 2.4 million Americans, or 1.1 percent of the adult population, lives with schizophrenia.¹
- Bipolar disorder affects 5.7 million American adults, approximately 2.6 percent of the adult population per year.¹
- Major depressive disorder affects 6.7 percent of adults, or about 14.8 million American adults.¹ According to the 2004 *World Health Report*, this is the leading cause of disability in the United States and Canada in ages between 15-44.³
- Anxiety disorders, including panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), generalized anxiety disorder and phobias, affect about 18.7 percent of adults, an estimated 40 million individuals. Anxiety disorders frequently co-occur with depression or addiction disorders.¹
- An estimated 5.2 million adults have co-occurring mental health and addiction disorders.⁴ Of adults using homeless services, 31 percent reported having combination of these conditions.⁵
- One-half of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14, three-quarters by age 24.⁶ Despite effective treatments, there are long delays - sometimes decades - between the first onset of symptoms and when people seek and receive treatment.⁷
- Fewer than one-third of adults and one-half of children with a diagnosable mental disorder receive mental health services in a given year.²
- Racial and ethnic minorities are less likely to have access to mental health services and often receive a poorer quality of care.⁸
- In the United States, the annual economic, indirect cost of mental illness is estimated to be \$79 billion. Most of that amount - approximately \$63 billion - reflects the loss of productivity as a result of illnesses.²
- Individuals living with serious mental illness face an increased risk of having chronic medical conditions.⁹ Adults living with serious mental illness die 25 years earlier than other Americans, largely due to treatable medical conditions.¹⁰
- Suicide is the eleventh-leading cause of death in the United States and the third-leading cause of death for people ages 10-24 years. More than 90 percent of those who die by suicide have a diagnosable mental disorder.¹¹
- In July 2007, a nationwide report indicated that male veterans are twice as likely to die by suicide as compared with their civilian peers in the general United States population.¹²
- Twenty-four percent of state prisoners and 21 percent of local jail prisoners have a recent history of a mental health disorder.¹³
- Seventy percent of youth in juvenile justice systems have at least one mental disorder with at least 20 percent experiencing significant functional impairment from a serious mental illness.¹⁴
- Over 50 percent of students with a mental disorder age 14 and older drop out of high school - the highest dropout rate of any disability group.¹⁵

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