

What You Need to Know About Mental Illness

Did You Know...

- According to the Surgeon General, one in every five Americans experiences a mental disorder in any given year and half of all Americans have such disorders at some time in their lives.
- These illnesses of the brain affect all of us, regardless of age, gender, economic status or ethnicity.
- About one in 17 persons lives with a serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, major depression or bipolar disorder
- One in five U.S. service members who served in Iraq or Afghanistan suffers from major depression or combat stress (PTSD)
- One in ten children and youth has a serious mental illness condition
- About half of students with a serious mental illness in special education drop out of high school – the highest dropout rate of any disability group
- Fewer than one-third of adults and one-half of children who live with mental health needs receive any level of treatment in any one year
- Only one in three adults who lives with a serious mental illness is employed, even though most want to work
- 26 percent of the homeless population lives with a severe mental illness
- One out of every five community hospital stays involves a primary or secondary diagnosis of mental illness
- About 20 percent to 25 percent of jail and prison inmates and youth involved with juvenile justice live with a serious mental illness
- We lose one life to suicide every 15.8 minutes. The suicide rate for older adults is 50 percent higher than the national rate as a whole