



# The High Cost of Mental Illness in America

**44 million adults**  
HAVE A MENTAL  
HEALTH CONDITION\*

**50%** of mental  
illness begins  
by age 14  
**75%** by age 24\*

  
**1 out of every 8**  
emergency department visits  
involves a mental health or  
substance use condition\*

ONLY ABOUT  
**4 in 10 people**  
  
with a mental health  
condition received any  
treatment in the past year\*

Schizophrenia usually  
develops early in life  
and costs the U.S.  
economy an estimated  
**\$155.7 BILLION**  
a year\*



About **2 MILLION PEOPLE**  
with mental illness are  
**BOOKED INTO JAILS**  
every year\*—many because they  
didn't get the treatment they needed

**105.6 million people**  
live in a **mental health**  
**professional shortage** area\*

Depression is the  
**#1 LEADING CAUSE OF  
DISABILITY**  
in the world and mental illness costs  
Americans **\$193.2 BILLION**  
in lost earnings per year\*

**1 AMERICAN**  
**DIES BY SUICIDE**  
**EVERY**  
**12 MINUTES**\*



NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. Join our movement at [nami.org/policy](http://nami.org/policy).

\*References can be found at [www.nami.org/policystats](http://www.nami.org/policystats).





# 1 in 5 Americans HAS A MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION

**12.8 MILLION ADULTS LIVE WITH A SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS**

**48.1 MILLION ADULTS  
LIVE WITH  
ANXIETY DISORDERS**

Anxiety disorders are conditions characterized by feelings of persistent, excessive fear or worry in situations that are not threatening.

**17.1 MILLION ADULTS  
LIVE WITH  
MAJOR DEPRESSION**

Depression is a condition that is characterized by changes in mood, sleep, appetite, concentration and energy.

**10 MILLION ADULTS  
LIVE WITH  
ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER**

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a condition that is characterized by inattention, hyperactivity and impulsivity.

**9.1 MILLION ADULTS  
LIVE WITH  
POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER**

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a condition that is characterized by changes in sleep, thinking, and mood, and can include symptoms such as intrusive memories, hypervigilance and outbursts of anger.

**7.1 MILLION ADULTS  
LIVE WITH  
BIPOLAR DISORDER**

Bipolar disorder is a condition that is characterized by dramatic shifts in mood and energy, such as periods of mania and depression, and can also include symptoms of psychosis, such as delusions.

**3.5 MILLION ADULTS  
LIVE WITH  
BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER**

Borderline personality disorder (BPD) is a condition characterized by difficulty regulating emotions and instability in behavior, self-image and functioning, impulsive actions and unstable relationships.

**1.6 MILLION ADULTS  
LIVE WITH  
SCHIZOPHRENIA**

Schizophrenia is a condition characterized by an interruption of a person's thought processes, perceptions and emotional responses. Symptoms may include psychosis, delusions, hallucinations, reduced emotional expressiveness and disorganized thinking.

Discover more at  
[nami.org/policy](https://nami.org/policy).