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SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

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What is burden?

The burden of schizophrenia includes direct costs, indirect costs, and intangible costs. Direct costs are estimated by the amount of services used and the price of treatment. Indirect costs are estimated by the average reduced future earnings of both patients and caregivers. Intangible costs are those that may be associated with the illness, such as trauma and depression. This topic relates to the overall cost of schizophrenia on society. For more information on direct costs of treating schizophrenia, please see the pharmaceutical and psychosocial treatment costs topics.

What is the evidence regarding the burden of schizophrenia?

Moderate quality evidence finds the overall annual cost of schizophrenia varies worldwide, ranging from US\$94 million in Puerto Rico to US\$102 billion in the USA (2013; 0.02-1.65% of GDP). Indirect costs associated with productivity loss due to absenteeism, unemployment, or premature mortality contributed 50 to 85% of the overall costs. Hospitalisation accounts for the greatest proportion of direct illness costs.

Relapse costs between US\$6,033 and US\$32,753 per relapse in the USA, and between US\$8,665 and US\$18,676 per relapse in Europe and Australia. Re-hospitalisation costs between US\$6,383 and US\$28,767 in the USA, between US\$1,615 and US\$39,088 in Europe, Japan and New Zealand, and between US\$2,217 and \$14,923 in other countries.

Moderate to low quality evidence finds psychosocial burden associated with schizophrenia includes: stigma, marginalisation, discrimination, social withdrawal, disengagement, loneliness, fear, despair, helplessness, problems with relationships and interpersonal skills, frustrations with mental health services, problems with self-esteem and over protection, unmet needs for social reciprocity, constancy, hope and understanding, problems with finding and keeping work, and having a place to live. Facilitating factors to overcome these difficulties are: providing empathetic living spaces, work spaces and routine environments, meaningful occupations and supported employment, exercise for socialisation as well as for health reasons, trust, knowledge in advance of what is happening, training for health workers to listen more and work in partnership and family support.

For more information see the technical table

HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS

We are able to make significant advances due to the generosity of countless people. Your donation allows us to continue to work towards transforming lives. For information on how you can support our research, phone **1300 888 019** or make a secure donation at neura.edu.au/donate/schizophrenia.



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NeuRA (Neuroscience Research Australia) is one of the largest independent medical and clinical research institutes in Australia and an international leader in neurological research.

Diseases of the brain and nervous system pose the greatest health, economic and social burden of any disease group because they are chronic, debilitating and have no known cures.

Medical research is the cornerstone of efforts to advance the health and wellbeing of families and the community. Our dedicated scientists are focussed on transforming their research into significant and practical benefits for all patients.

While we hope you find this information useful, it is always important to discuss any questions about schizophrenia or its treatment with your doctor or other health care provider.