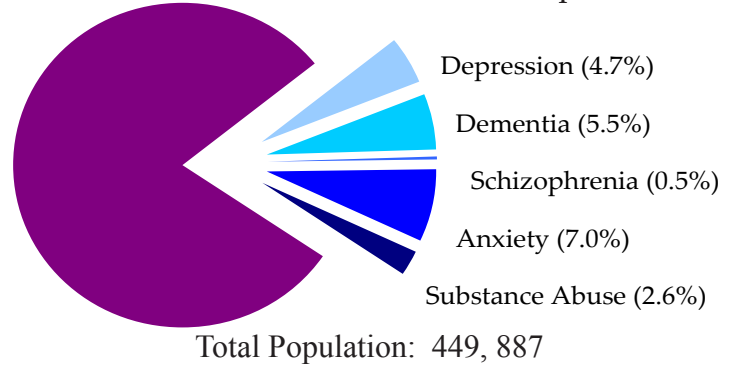


The number of older persons with mental illness is increasing.

- Mental illnesses are the third most common health problem among older Iowans.
- Each year 1 out of 5 older Iowans experiences a diagnosable mental illness.
- More than 50% of persons in nursing homes and other residential care have a mental illness but few receive treatment.

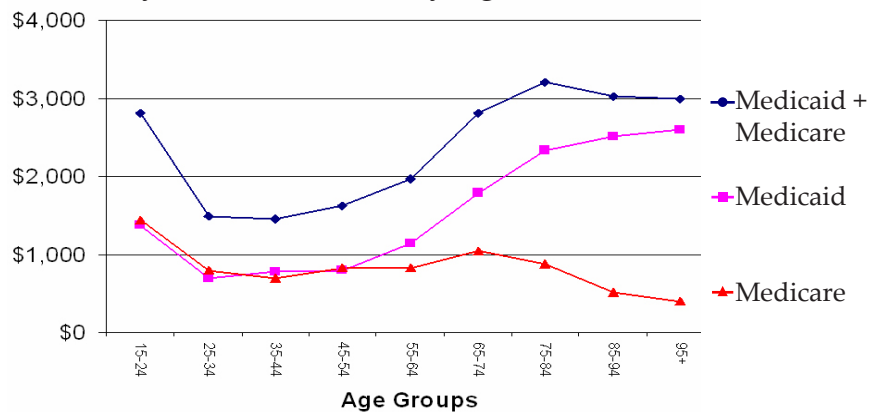
Mental Illness Estimates in Iowa for persons 65+



Mental illness reduces quality of life and increases costs.

- Older people with untreated mental illness have higher health care costs and lower quality of life.
- Untreated mental illness complicates inpatient care and drives up cost.
- Average Medicaid expenditures for older adults with mental illnesses are higher than younger adults and older adults with hypertension, diabetes, or cardiac dysrhythmias.

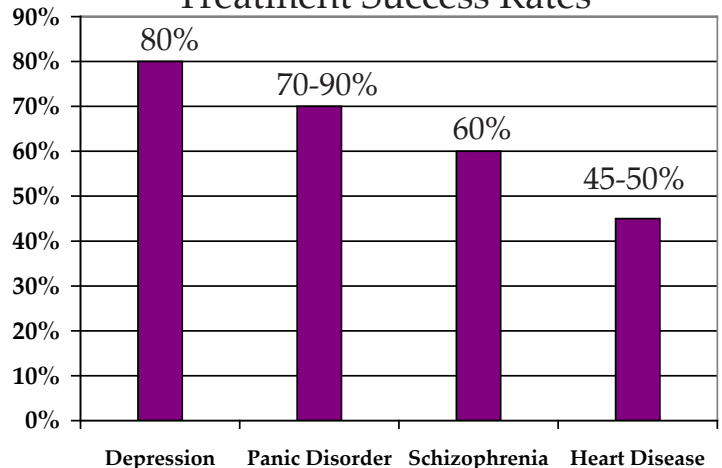
Monthly Per Person Costs by Age: Severe Mental Illness



Treatment for mental illness works.

- Older adults are the least likely of any age group to receive specialty mental health care.
- Early identification, referral, and treatment are vital to accelerate recovery and prevent further harm.
- The treatment success rates for mental health disorders often surpass those of other medical conditions like heart disease and diabetes.

Treatment Success Rates



ICMHA Goals and Objectives

Education and Training

- Conduct a state-wide public education campaign targeted toward older Iowans and their families
- Support the training of professional service providers including physicians, nurses, social workers and psychologists

Outreach and Clinical Services

- Promote mental wellness among older Iowans
- Increase the number of mental health providers who are qualified to treat older Iowans
- Integrate qualified mental health providers into primary health care offices and other health care settings

Policy and Program Administration

- Establish a business case for aging and mental health issues
- Make wellness and treatment a priority among policy makers
- Have treatment become a priority among program administrators

Want to Contact Us?

The University of Iowa
Center on Aging
2159 West Lawn
Iowa City, IA 52242
Phone: 319-384-4222
E-mail: ICMHA@uiowa.edu

Iowa Department of Human Services
1305 E. Walnut
Hoover Building, 5th Floor
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone: 515-281-7270
E-mail: lstarr@dhs.state.ia.us

The Iowa Coalition on Mental Health and Aging (ICMHA) exists to expand and improve mental health care for older Iowans so that they can live, learn, recreate, engage in meaningful activities and access appropriate services in the communities of their choice.

Anyone who is interested in expanding and improving the care provided to older Iowans with mental illnesses is welcome to join.