



Effects of Care Models to Improve General Medical Outcomes for Individuals With Serious Mental Illness

By U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs

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Paperback. 66 pages. Dimensions: 11.0in. x 8.5in. x 0.1in. Individuals with serious mental illness (SMI) have shortened life expectancies relative to the general population to an extent that is not explained by unnatural causes such as suicide or accidents. Epidemiological studies have estimated the life expectancy of individuals with schizophrenia to be 10 to 25 years less than the general population. Increased morbidity of both chronic and acute illnesses in individuals with SMI also reduces quality of life and increases the overall burden of disability beyond that of the SMI itself. SMIs have an overwhelming economic impact, as measured by direct and indirect costs, including health care costs, disability payments, lost productivity, and law enforcement costs. For example, one study estimated annual costs due to schizophrenia to be 62.7 billion annually in the U. S. , and patients with bipolar disorder are estimated to have the highest total health care costs of any mental illness with up to 70 percent of these costs in nonmental health (e. g. , primary care) settings. Given these issues, methods to improve general medical services for individuals with SMI is...



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-- **Dr. Everett Dicki DDS**