1 IN 10 ADULTS residing in Missouri has a serious mental illness (SMI). Without treatment, these can lead to unemployment, increased hospital and emergency room use, incarceration, suicide, and early death due to chronic medical conditions.

Overall, the annual cost burden of untreated serious mental illness to the state of Missouri is estimated to be $2.5 billion.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS OF SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS?

- **Indirect Expenses**: 87.5%
  - Time lost from work (absenteeism)
  - Productive time lost (presenteeism)
  - Higher unemployment rates
  - Unrealized earnings due to disability/death

- **Direct Expenses**: 10.5%
  - Increased inpatient care
  - Outpatient care
  - Mental health organization spending
  - Long-term care

WHO PAYS FOR UNTREATED SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS?

- **$1.1 billion**: Individuals (unrealized earnings)
- **$915 million**: Private sector, including employers
- **$240 million**: State & local governments
- **$236 million**: Federal government

An economic model was developed by The HSM Group to estimate the costs of untreated SMI among adults, using Census data combined with prevalence rates.

Mental illness also affects many other lifestyle factors that, although very important and often preventable, could not be quantified in this model. To use the calculator, visit hcfgkc.org/costs-untreated-mentalillness
MENTAL HEALTH

A Shortage of Mental Health Providers

- The federal government designates 104 out of 114 Missouri counties and most of St. Louis city as mental health shortage areas. There is no licensed psychiatrist in 72 of Missouri’s counties.
- A majority of psychiatrists don’t accept Medicaid, and a growing number refuse all health insurance plans.
- The average wait to see a psychiatrist in the St. Louis area is estimated at 10 to 30 days and can reach six months for children and teens.

St. Louis Post Dispatch, 2014, “Shortage of Psychiatrists, funding issues Creates Crisis in Mental Health.”

Hospital and Emergency Department Episodes Involving Mental Disorders

Total hospital and emergency department treatment of mental disorders has been rising for the past several years, with a peak in 2012. Nearly all of these episodes represent avoidable costs to the healthcare system, insofar as mental disorders under office-based or clinic-based treatment typically would not need ED or hospital-based treatment if their usual source of care is accessible and available and if they are able to adhere to any prescribed medications.

Mental Health Prevalence Rates in Missouri

- Over 5% of adults over 18 had a serious mental illness in the past year
- Over 6% of Missourians over age 12 have past year alcohol dependence or abuse
- Over 4% of people 18 and over had serious suicidal thoughts in the past year
- Over 83% of people over age 12 with illicit drug dependence or abuse have not received treatment in the past year
- Over 60% of youth (age 12-17) with a major depressive issue in the last year did not receive treatment

For additional resources, go to https://publichealth.wustl.edu/transforming-healthcare-additional-resources/