

# UNDERINVESTMENT AND SUB-OPTIMAL CARE IN SCHIZOPHRENIA ARE MISSED OPPORTUNITIES FOR PATIENTS, THEIR FAMILIES AND SOCIETY

## Schizophrenia:

is a long-term mental health disorder that causes hallucinations, delusions and muddled thoughts<sup>1</sup>

Responsible for:

**1.1%**

of all **DALYs**<sup>†2</sup>

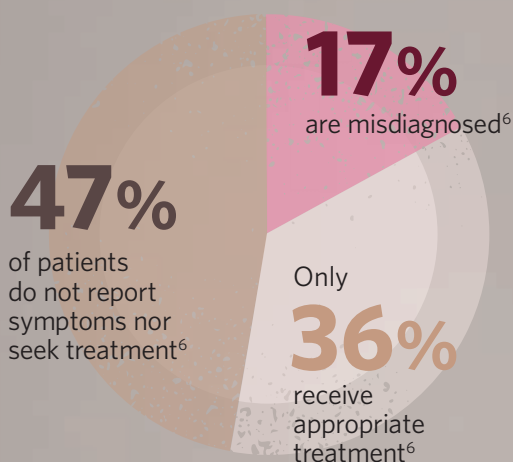
**2.5%**

of **global health expenditure**<sup>3</sup>

**2x**

more likely to develop type II diabetes<sup>4,5</sup>

## Redesign of health services for schizophrenia is a top priority globally<sup>6</sup>



Family caregivers spend an average of **23 hours** per week caring for their relatives with schizophrenia<sup>7</sup>

**4 out of 10**



feel they are unable to cope with the constant anxiety of caring<sup>7</sup>

**44%**

are unsatisfied with their role in treatment and care planning<sup>7</sup>

Focusing healthcare programmes on **early intervention and communication** with family caregivers can reduce schizophrenia complications<sup>8</sup>



fewer days in hospital than standard care programmes<sup>8</sup>

<sup>†</sup> Disability adjusted life years.

This infographic has been developed by H. Lundbeck A/S from published literature as a contribution to the public health debate and is endorsed by the European Brain Council, the European Federation of Associations of Families of People with Mental Illness, the Global Alliance of Mental Health Illness Advocacy Networks and the World Federation for Mental Health.

# UNDERINVESTMENT AND SUB-OPTIMAL CARE IN SCHIZOPHRENIA ARE MISSED OPPORTUNITIES FOR PATIENTS, THEIR FAMILIES AND SOCIETY

Lack of response and side effects from current schizophrenia medications put patients at risk of stopping medication and of relapse<sup>9</sup>

8 out of 10



receiving pharmacologic therapy for schizophrenia do not achieve remission<sup>10</sup>

50%

of people treated for schizophrenia stop taking their medication<sup>9</sup>

Without maintenance antipsychotic treatment, **60-70%** relapse within one year, and almost **90%** relapse within two years<sup>11</sup>

Healthcare costs for patients who relapse are **over**

**€2,000**  
more each year<sup>12</sup>

1 in 7



people with schizophrenia discontinue treatment due to side effects they cannot tolerate<sup>13</sup>

Common side effects include:<sup>14</sup>



## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **Invest in healthcare professional training and services** so people with schizophrenia are accurately diagnosed and can easily access the support they need
- **Educate, empower and support caregivers** to enhance their important role alongside healthcare professionals and patients in the management of treatment and care for people with schizophrenia
- **Invest in earlier and appropriate schizophrenia interventions** to avoid extended periods of untreated or sub-optimally treated psychosis and reduce the economic burden
- Improve **access to schizophrenia treatment** that delivers **quality of life and functioning** outcomes

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