

# Facts about Behavioral Health

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- ***Mental illnesses are more common than cancer, diabetes, or heart disease*** Mental Health Foundation (2006). *Truth hurts: report of the National Inquiry into self-harm among young people*. London: Mental Health Foundation
- ***Approximately 20% of adolescents have a diagnosable mental health disorder*** Kessler, R. C.; Berglund, P.; Demler, O.; Jin, R.; Walters, E. E. 2005. Life-time Prevalence and Age-of-onset Distribution of DSM-IV Disorders in the National Co-morbidity Survey Replication. *Archives of General Psychiatry* 62: 593-602
- ***Among adolescents with mental health needs, 70% do not receive needed care*** Chandra, A.; Minkovitz, C. S. 2006. Stigma Starts Early: Gender Differences in Teen Willingness to Use Mental Health Services. *Journal of Adolescent Health* 38: 754e.1-754e8.
- ***Untreated mental health problems among adolescents can often result in negative outcomes, such as school dropout, strained family relationships, involvement with juvenile justice systems, substance abuse, and engaging in risky sexual behaviors*** Kapphahn, C.; Morreale, M.; Rickert, V.; Walker, L. 2006. Financing Mental Health Services for Adolescents: A Position Paper of the Society for Adolescent Medicine. *Journal of Adolescent Health* 39: 456-458.
- ***Approximately 50% of students age 14 and older who are living with a mental health problem drop out of high school*** U.S. Department of Education, *Twenty-third annual report to Congress on the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*, Washington, D.C., 2001.
- ***Between 1 in 12 and 1 in 15 children and adolescents deliberately self-harm*** Mental Health Foundation (2006). *Truth hurts: report of the National Inquiry into self-harm among young people*. London: Mental Health Foundation
- ***Suicide is the third leading cause of death in adolescents and young adults*** National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS). [www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars) (accessed Sept. 2007).