

Mental Health Awareness & Advocacy: Recent Trends



Joyce Marter

Handouts



The Stress Epidemic



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

People who report workplace stress	61%
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Percent of people who regularly experience physical symptoms caused by stress	77%
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Regularly experience psychological symptoms caused by stress	73%
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Feel they are living with extreme stress	33%
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Feel their stress has increased over the past five years	48%
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Stressors of the Pandemic

- Concerns for health & safety of self & loved ones
- Adjustments to working remotely and differently for essential workers
- Sheltering in place with loved ones
- Loneliness and isolation
- Dependent care—new demands such as homeschooling



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Stressors of COVID-19

- Less social support
- Financial fears & stress—unemployment
- Racial injustice issues coming to the forefront
- Political divide and unrest
- Challenges managing uncertainty and change

Reintegration Challenges

- Continued transition & uncertainty
- Health anxiety
- Social anxiety
- Dependent care coverage
- Financial stress (helping loved ones)
- Workload



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Signs & Symptoms of Stress

- Physical
- Emotional
- Cognitive
- Relational



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Stress vs. Burnout

- Stress is the body's physical and psychological response to anything perceived as overwhelming
- Burnout is a state of emotional and physical exhaustion caused by excessive and prolonged stress



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Symptoms of Burnout

Feelings of:

- Powerlessness
- Hopelessness
- Detachment
- Isolation
- Irritability
- Frustration
- Failure

- Despair
- Cynicism
- Apathy
- Emotional exhaustion
- Overwhelm
- Depression
- Anxiety

Decrease in:

- Self-esteem
- Concentration
- Memory

Increase in:

- Errors
- Absenteeism
- Physical complaints
- Sleep disruption

Implications of Burnout

- WHO study, 785,000 deaths per year from overwork & burnout
- The Great Resignation
- Self-Employment



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Mental Health Implications

- Feelings of grief and loss
- Increase in stress, anxiety and depression
- Increase in substance abuse
- Relationship conflict, abuse, violence
- PTSD/Trauma
- Increase in suicide



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Mental Health Continuum

In Crisis

Very anxious
Very low mod
Absenteeism
Exhausted
Very poor sleep
Weight loss

Struggling

Anxious
Depressed
Tired
Poor
performance
Poor sleep
Poor appetite

Surviving

Worried
Nervous
Irritable
Sad
Trouble Sleeping
Distracted
Withdrawn

Thriving

Positive
Clam
Performing
Sleeping Well
Eating normally
Normal social
activity

Excelling

Cheerful
Joyful
Energetic
High
performance
Flow
Fully realizing
potential



Mental Health By The Numbers



1 in 4 Americans experience a mental health condition (per year)

1 in 25 live with a serious mental health condition

42 million deal with an anxiety disorder

16 million deal with major depression

Over 6 million are managing bipolar disorder



Minority Mental Health Awareness

- Racism's Toll on Mental Health—PTSD, fear, more labeling diagnosis, etc.
 - The Mental Health Care Gap—Poverty gap, lack of representation in the field, stigma, criminal justice, etc.
 - LGBTQ+ individuals are twice as likely to experience a mental health disorder during their lifetime due to stigma and trauma.
- Human Rights Campaign

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Cost of Behavioral Health Issues on the Workplace

Addiction costs workplaces \$500 billion a year in absenteeism, turnover, healthcare costs, low productivity, etc.



What do Behavioral Health Problems Cost Your Organization?

**The National Safety Council's [Substance Use Cost Calculator](#)
provides information about the cost of substance use to
employers based on number of employees, industry, and
state.**

**One Mind at Work's [Depression Cost Calculator](#) determines
the financial impact of serious depression on the employers.**

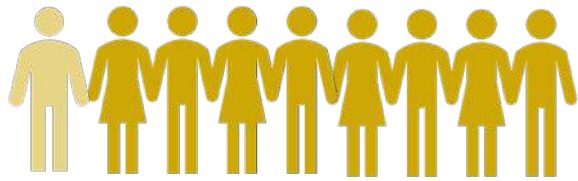
Early Detection of Mental Illness

- Excessive worrying or fear
- Feeling excessively sad or low
- Confused thinking or problems concentrating/learning
- Extreme mood changes, including uncontrollable “highs” or feelings of euphoria
- Prolonged or strong feelings of irritability or anger
- Avoiding friends and social activities
- Difficulties understanding/relating to other people
- Changes in sleeping habits or feeling tired

Early Detection of Mental Illness

- Changes in eating habits
- Difficulty perceiving reality
- Inability to perceive changes in one's own feelings, behavior or personality (lack of insight)
- Multiple physical ailments without obvious causes (such as headaches, stomach aches, vague and ongoing “aches and pains”)
- Inability to carry out daily activities or handle daily problems and stress
- An intense fear of weight gain or concern with appearance

Substance Abuse Awareness Statistics*



1 out of 10

Americans have a drug
or alcohol problem



1 out of 7

of us have a family
member with a problem

* According to the [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#)

Addiction Issues: Signs & Symptoms

- Inconsistency
- Relational problems
- Denying responsibility
- Physical complaints
- Lying/secretcy
- Sleep disturbance
- People around who enable
- Financial/legal consequences
- Problems handling conflict
- Performance problems
- Denial/rationalization/. minimizing
- Not morning people/high absenteeism



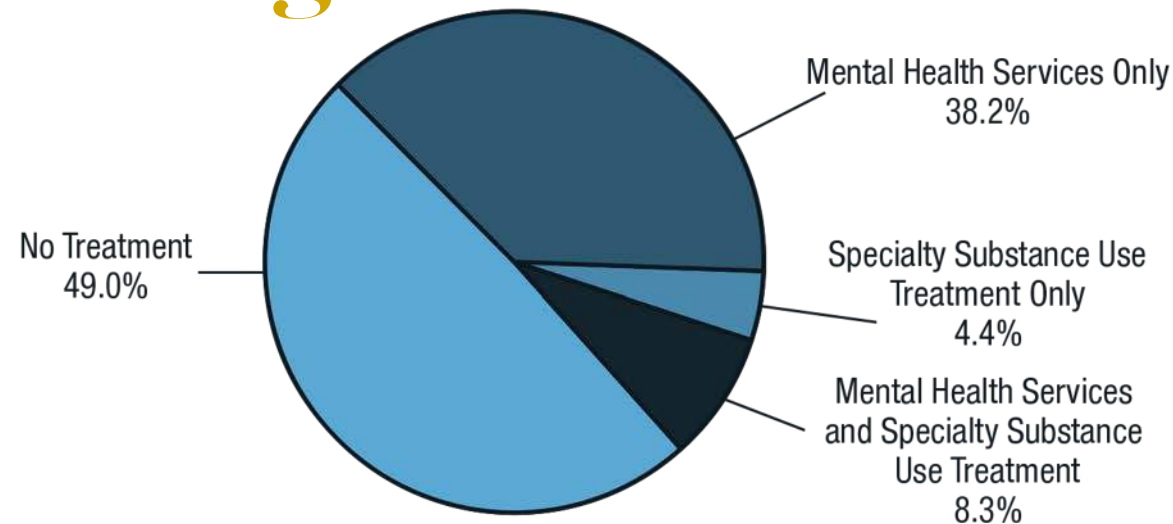
Dual Diagnosis Statistics*



* According to the [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#)



Receipt of Mental Health Services and Substance Use Treatment in the Past Year Aged 18 or Older



8.5 Million Adults with Co-Occurring Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorders

Note: Mental health service is defined as having received inpatient care or outpatient care or having used prescription medication for problems with emotions, nerves, or mental health. Specialty substance use treatment refers to treatment at a hospital (inpatient only), rehabilitation facility (inpatient or outpatient), or mental health center in order to reduce or stop drug or alcohol use, or for medical problems associated with drug or alcohol use.

Note: The percentages do not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Suicide Awareness

- Suicide completion rates have surged to a 30-year high.
- Globally, over 800,000 suicides are reported each year, with many more going unreported.
- In the US, over 121 people complete suicide a day.
- Risk of suicide for people aged 18-24 highest during pandemic
- [The Next Covid Crisis Could Be A Wave Of Suicides](#): Study predicts 75,000 “deaths of despair.”



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Suicide Warning Signs

- Hopelessness
- Despair
- Isolation
- Lack of engagement
- Avoiding future talk
- Passive statements as clues
- Cries for help
- Increased use of drugs or alcohol
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Acting anxious, agitated or restless
- Talking about having no purpose

Suicide Prevention

- Tell someone—speak up
- Call a hotline
- Call 911
- Go to ER
- Err on the side of caution; don't minimize or delay



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56%

Adults with mental
illness do not
receive treatment.

(Mental Health America, 2018)

THE KENNEDY
FORUM

Barriers to Care

- Shame
- Stigma
- Cost
- Time
- Racism: #BIPOCMentalHealth
- Don't ask, don't tell mentality

Stigma

- Cultural
- Gender-based
- Mental health issues viewed as weakness
- We all have mental health just as we have
- Physical health



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Break the Stigma: Language Matters

- Be mindful of language related to mental health & addiction
- Crazy, wacko, insane, unhinged, mental case, psycho
- Avoid use of these terms in a negative connotation:
- Bipolar, alcoholic, etc.
- Refrain from terms that foster shame & stigma:



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Mental Health Heroes



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Create a Collaborative Culture

- Avoid phrases that discourage support & collaboration:
 - "man up"
 - "power through"
 - "put on your big girl pants"
 - "suck it up"
- Speak in terms of "I, We and Us" versus "You and Them"



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Reduce Stigma At Work

- Include behavioral health content in newsletters
 - Promote awareness through signage ([NAMI Infographics](#))
 - Participate in social media campaigns such as [#CureStigma PSA's](#)
- Provide education about [HIPAA](#), the [ADA](#) & [Mental Health Parity](#) to address concerns about confidentiality, protections and costs
 - Mention mental health in sick day benefits



Create Programs & Events

Take the [Stigmafree Pledge](#)

Celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month

Create a [Mental Health Diplomats Program](#) where employees volunteer to serve as a resource for their colleagues who may be struggling with mental health concerns—connecting them to services offered by the company as well as other resources.

Consider doing a [NAMI Walk](#) a team building & awareness event



A circular inset image on the left side of the slide shows a man in a pink shirt carrying a young boy in a green shirt on his shoulders. Both are smiling and holding hands, with the boy's arms outstretched. They are outdoors under a clear blue sky, with a building's roof visible in the background.

Practice Compassion

- Don't assume you know what others are feeling
- Ask how they are doing
- Listen actively
- Don't minimize or argue with feelings
- Avoid judgment
- Ask for what they need

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Empathy

- Must important relational tool
- Put yourself in the other's shoes
- Deep understanding
- Reflect understanding of other's feelings with kindness and compassion
- Shared emotional experience
- Keep a developmental lens
- [Useful article](#)



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4 Steps to Providing Support:

- **Approach:** state what you are noticing in a kind, compassionate and confidential manner
- **Listen:** without judgment and respond with empathy
- **Give reassurance,** information and resources
- **Be the bridge:** Encourage professional help, support & follow-up
- How to make a referral [video](#) & [article](#)

Define Your Role

What are your responsibilities?

- Education
- Resources
- Intervention
- Know and update Policies & Procedures

What are not your responsibilities?

- To diagnose or determine their degree of suffering/impairment
- To be a therapist
- Treatment outcome



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Promote Psychological Safety in the Workplace

- Open & productive conversations about workload & work time
- Flexibility, creativity and compromise
- Unifying and collaborative mentality
- Respect & empathy



Encourage Utilization of Benefits:

- Vacation
- Sick benefits & FMLA for time as needed
- Insurance Benefits (Mental Health Parity Law)
- Flex Spending/Health Savings Accounts

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EAP Services:

- Free and confidential
- 3-8 free sessions per issue, per year
- Immediate family members also eligible
- Counseling for stress, mental health, substance abuse, relationship issues, etc.
- Resources to alleviate stressors
 - Childcare & Eldercare
 - Legal & Financial
 - Educational resources



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EAP Options

- Internal EAPs
- EAP tied to Insurance
 - Aetna, Cigna, UBH, etc.
- External EAP
 - ComPsych, ERS, etc.
- To find an EAP, contact [EAPA](#).



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Conduct Mental Health Awareness Trainings

- The American Psychiatric Association Foundation Center for Workplace Mental Health's [Right Direction](#) Program

- [USA Mental Health First Aid](#)



- Employee Assistance Programs
 - Corporate Trainings



Other Mental Health Related Trainings

- Mindfulness
- Stress Reduction
- Management trainings
 - Work/life balance
 - Communication
 - Conflict Resolution
 - Self-Care & Support
- De-escalation Trainings
- Cultural Sensitivity
- Anti-Harassment
- How to Deal with Difficult People
- Building Resilience
- Promoting Positive Mental Health
- Managing Change



Sample Wellness Benefits:

- [Ginger](#) - on demand mental health support and coaching 24/7, and new: 8 free sessions with a live therapist.
- [Whil](#)
- Mindfulness Programming-
 - Meditation group that meets regularly to meditate together.
 - [Calm](#) or [Headspace](#): Free 30-day trials or corporate memberships



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Mindfulness in the Workplace

- GOOGLE
- NIKE
- ACCENTURE
- SONY
- LOREAL
- BRITISH AIRWAYS
- NOKIA
- MICROSOFT
- AMERICAN EXPRESS
- JOHNSON & JOHNSON

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Mindfulness & Work Research



***Job Performance
Problem Solving
Work/Life Balance
Focus & Concentration
Ethical Decision Making
Creating & Innovation
Employer-Employee Relations***



***Emotional Exhaustion
Cognitive Rigidity
Intention to leave
Multi-tasking
Sick Days
Stress***

Counseling & Therapy Resources

- [United Healthcare](#) has launched a free (to anyone) 24/7 support line staffed by mental health experts: Call 866-342-6292
- Text HOME to 741741 to connect with a [Crisis Counselor](#)
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-8255
- [Find a Mental Health Facility Near You](#)
- Most insurance companies are covering teletherapy and some like Aetna have waived copays for telemedicine.
- [PsychologyToday's Find-A-Therapist Directory](#)



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A stack of several books with white and orange spines stands next to a small green succulent in a white square pot. The background is a light-colored wall with a subtle pattern.

Support Resources

Mental Health America

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

- Advocate for Change—Vote4MentalHealth
- Take the StigmaFree Pledge to #CureStigma
- Share your story
- Take action on advocacy issues
- Walk for mental health

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance Advocacy Center

Hope for the Day

Hope for the Day's tagline is "It's okay not to be okay" and they provide education, outreach and action to break the silence around mental health.

Advocacy Resources

[iFred](#)

iFred's mission is to shine a positive light on mental health and eliminate stigma through prevention, research and education.

[Kennedy Forum](#)

The Kennedy Forum is working toward lasting change in the way mental health and addictions are treated in our healthcare system.

Visit www.DontDenyMe.org to enforce the Mental Health Parity Act.

**[American Counseling Association Government Affairs:
Voter Voice](#)**





"Address mental health and...

we'll address our criminal justice issues,
we'll address a lot of our health-care issues,
we'll address a lot of our education issues,
and we'll address a lot of our economic issues.

The ripple effect of doing the right
thing in mental health is enormous."

PATRICK J. KENNEDY

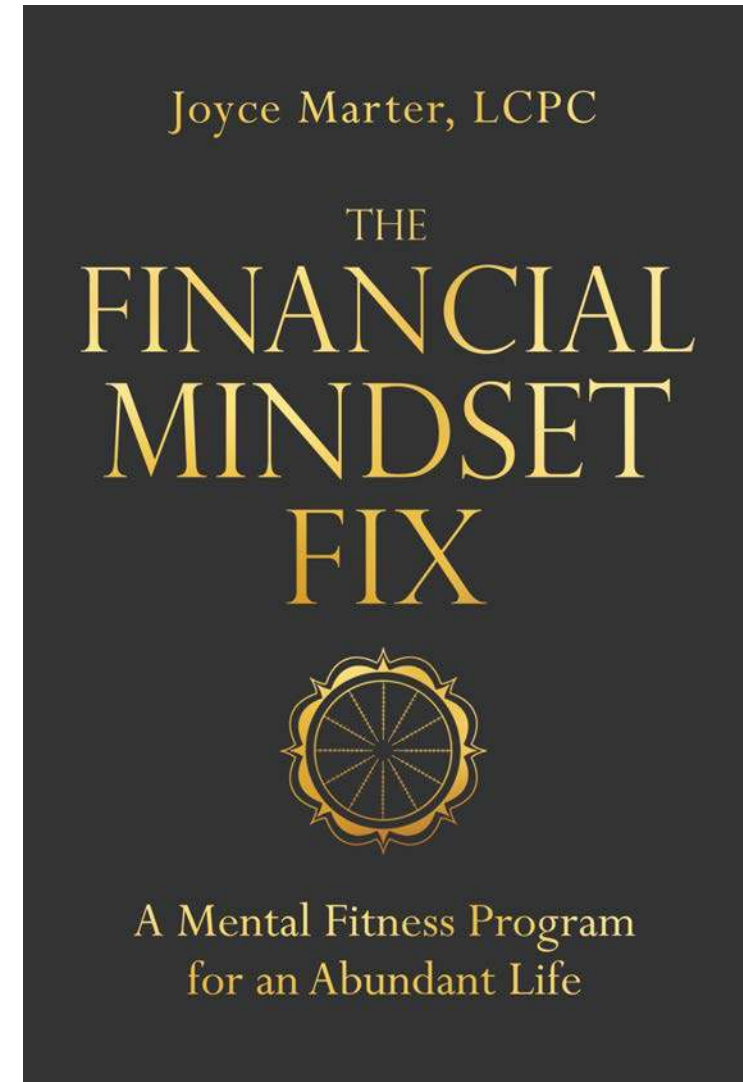


*Thank You
for Being
an
Advocate*



Mental Health/Financial Health Resource

- Available on Amazon and all major online retailers
- Hardcover & audiobook
- Mental Health & Financial Health Corporate Wellness Program



Joyce Marter

Joyce Marter

www.joyce-marter.com
joyce@joyce-marter.com



@Joyce_Marter



joyce.marter



Joyce Marter, LCPC



Joyce Marter



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