

From: [APA Communications](#)
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Subject: APA Headlines: People Who Have Depression May Not Be Getting Needed Treatment, Study Indicates
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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

August 30, 2016

Leading The News

People Who Have Depression May Not Be Getting Needed Treatment, Study Indicates.

The [CBS News](#) (8/29, Marcus) website reports that "too often," people "who have depression aren't actually getting the treatment they need," researchers found after analyzing "data from 46,417 adults who responded to a survey in 2012 and 2013." The survey results revealed that "more than eight percent screened positive for depression, yet less than a third of that group (28.7 percent) received any kind of treatment." American Psychiatric Association president Maria Oquendo, MD, pointed out that a shortage of mental health professionals may interfere with a depressed person's ability to get treatment. "In many communities, there aren't any mental healthcare professionals. It can also be difficult for people with depression to get motivated enough to find a mental healthcare professional. Dr. Oquendo said, "The onset of depression is so insidious and often times it's not identified until it's serious. Then a lack of motivation and apathy interfere."

[CNN](#) (8/29, Howard) reports the [findings](#) were published online Aug. 29 in JAMA Internal Medicine. Also covering the story are [Kaiser Health News](#) (8/29, Tan), [HealthDay](#) (8/29, Reinberg), and [Medical Daily](#) (8/29, Dharshini).

Psychiatric News Alert



[APA Applauds Mental Health Plan Unveiled Today by Hillary Clinton](#)

[U.S. Surgeon General Asks Physicians to Pledge Commitment to Stop Opioid Epidemic](#)

Parity Task Force Wants to Hear from You

The [Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Task Force](#) wants to hear about your experience with mental health and substance use disorder treatment services. How have parity protections affected you? What are your suggestions for improving awareness of parity protections and monitoring health plans' compliance with parity?

The comment period is open until Wednesday, August 31, 2016. [Submit your comments.](#)
For more information, visit www.hhs.gov/parity.



Psychiatric Treatment/Disorders

Women Who Develop Depression Before Or During Pregnancy May Suffer From A More Severe Version Of Postpartum Depression, Research Indicates.

In "To Your Health" in the [Washington Post](#) (8/29), psychologist Juli Fraga, PsyD, writes that many people are unaware that "postpartum depression (PPD), the mental health disorder that affects up to 20 percent of new mothers...often begins during pregnancy." Research indicates that "women who develop depression before or during their pregnancies suffer from a more severe version of this mental-health concern and experience more intense feelings of sadness, along with sleep concerns and, in rare instances, paranoia." Recently, "the US Preventive Services Task Force recommended that all expectant and new mothers receive maternal mental-health screenings."

Advertisement



CMS Unveils Changes In Effort To Address Concerns About ACA Marketplaces.

The [AP](#) (8/29, Alonso-Zaldivar) reports that on Monday, the Obama Administration “proposed a series of fixes and adjustments” for the Affordable Care Act, which are scheduled to take effect in 2018. The plan “would update the health insurance marketplace’s premium stabilization system to reflect concerns that insurers have raised,” and it would alter the “current five-year ban on companies returning to the health law’s markets after they have left.”

[The Hill](#) (8/29, Sullivan) reports that CMS unveiled the list of “technical tweaks” which are the Administration’s latest effort to address insurers’ concerns. Kevin Counihan, CEO of Healthcare.gov, said, “As the Marketplace continues to grow and mature, one of our most important priorities is to study data, listen to a range of market participants, test out different approaches, and adapt to what we see and hear.”

[Congressional Quarterly](#) (8/29, Mershon, Subscription Publication) and [Modern Healthcare](#) (8/29, Herman, Subscription Publication) also cover the story.

Administration Facing Consumer Concerns, Political Criticism As ACA Options Shrink.

[USA Today](#) (8/29, O’Donnell) reports an analysis conducted by Charles Gaba indicates some 2.1 million consumers may have to switch plans for 2017 because insurers are exiting Affordable Care Act marketplaces. That figure represents an increase from 1.2 million last year, and it does not “include the millions who bought new plans because they found a better deal.” The article says this “turmoil” in ACA marketplaces is pushing “federal regulators to stabilize the system, lower costs for consumers and reduce risks for insurers – often conflicting challenges that create a Catch-22.” In addition to dealing with these consumer issues, the Administration must also face criticism from Republicans who continue to urge repeal of the healthcare law.

Psychiatry and Public Health

Use Of Feeding Tubes By Dementia Patients Declined By Nearly 50% From 2000 To 2014.

The [New York Times](#) (8/29, Span, Subscription Publication) reports that the use of feeding tubes for patients with dementia has declined by nearly 50%, according to research that analyzed “federal nursing home data.” The researchers found that the percentage of dementia patients with feeding tubes declined from around 12% to less than 6% between 2000 and 2014.

APA in the News

Clinton Unveils Mental Health Reform Proposal.

The [AP](#) (8/29, Thomas) reports that on Monday, Hillary Clinton unveiled “a comprehensive plan to address millions of Americans coping with mental illness, pointing to the need to fully integrate mental health services into the nation’s health care system.” The proposal seeks to ensure that Americans need “no longer separate mental health from physical health in terms of access, care and quality of treatment.” In addition, it aims “to enforce mental health parity laws and provide training to law enforcement officers to deal with people grappling with mental health problems while prioritizing treatment over jail for low-level offenders.”

[Psychiatric News](#) (8/29) reports the American Psychiatric Association applauded Clinton’s proposed comprehensive mental healthcare plan. APA president Maria A. Oquendo, MD, stated, “We welcome the attention Clinton is giving to mental health, an issue that affects Americans from all walks of life.” Dr. Oquendo added, “Our mental health system needs to be discussed this election season. Americans deserve to know how the candidates plan to address this important issue.”

Other News

DOJ Incorporates Treatment Of People With Mental Illnesses, Disabilities Into Its Civil Rights Investigations Of Troubled Police Departments.

The [AP](#) (8/29, Tucker) reports recently, “the Justice Department has incorporated treatment of” people with mental illnesses and disabilities “into several of its wide-ranging civil rights investigations of troubled police departments.” A new Justice Department report on the Baltimore Police Department’s “policies found that officers end up in unnecessarily violent confrontations with mentally disabled people who in many instances haven’t even committed crimes.” According to the AP, the Baltimore report represents “the first time the Justice Department has explicitly found that a police department’s policies violated the Americans with Disabilities Act.”

Monday’s Lead Stories

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Schizophrenia.

- [Deaths From Self-Injury In US May Be Underestimated, Researchers Say.](#)
- [Insurers' Exits From ACA Marketplaces Limiting Options For Consumers In Many States.](#)
- [Tropical Storm Was "Blessing In Disguise" For Vermont's Mental Healthcare System.](#)
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