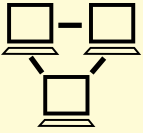


Improving health outcomes for people with psychotic disorders

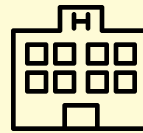
People with schizophrenia and related psychotic disorders are more likely to experience additional health problems and are more likely to die at a younger age than people without mental health conditions.

The Department of Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry (3DN) at UNSW Sydney aimed to assess the health, health service use, and causes of death among people with psychotic disorders. This information will help equip health services to meet the health needs of people with psychotic disorders.



Design:

Historical cohort study using a pre-existing, de-identified database. The data used was from 2001-2015.



Sample:

People who were hospitalised or used ambulatory health services in NSW for a mental health condition.

People with psychotic disorders are frequently used of hospital and ambulatory mental health services. Hospital and community-based health services should be prepared to meet their physical and mental health needs.



Compared to people with non-psychotic severe mental illness (e.g. depression, anxiety, and personality disorders), people with psychotic disorders:

- were more likely to be admitted to hospital, especially for a mental health condition
- were more likely to present to an emergency department
- had more ambulatory mental health treatment days.

People with different types of psychotic disorders use health services in different ways. Continuous and coordinated support is needed to prevent avoidable emergency department visits and hospitalisations.



Compared to people with schizophrenia:

- people with drug-induced, other organic, and acute psychotic disorders had more emergency department presentations, but fewer hospital admissions and ambulatory mental health treatment days
- people with affective psychotic disorders (e.g. depression with psychotic symptoms) had more hospital admissions, but fewer ambulatory mental health treatment days.

Some causes of death for people with psychotic disorders are preventable. Hospital-based, primary care and community mental health services should work together to proactively support the physical and mental health of people with psychotic disorders.



Common causes of death for people with psychotic disorders were circulatory and respiratory diseases, cancer, and external causes such as suicide and accidental injuries. Compared to people with schizophrenia:

- people with drug-induced and other organic psychotic disorders had a higher mortality rate.
- people with mood/affective disorders with psychotic symptoms had a lower mortality rate.
- people with drug-induced and other organic psychotic disorders and acute psychotic disorders were more likely to die from suicide.

For more information about this research, visit: <https://www.3dn.unsw.edu.au/projects/addressing-preventable-disease-burden-improve-health-outcomes-people-schizophrenia-and-related-psychoses>

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