



Mental Health Economics: Real Cost of Care

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Abstract:

Introduction: Mental health or psychological has always been a significant part of what we call generic "human health", as a constant and major concern not only for those in charge of organizing healthcare systems, be they public or private, but for all which, in one way or another deal with the management of human factor. Of course, ensuring a mental health corresponding for every individual, member of society in which he lives, has major costs, economic and social. Our paper has proposed that, starting from the evolution of the Romanian population over the last 50 years, taking into account the outstanding statistics on mental disorders in the EU and Romania, to highlight the costs and sources of funding of mental health services in our country. They were studied numerous specialized works, some of which were published in ISI magazines and ISI Proceedings in Europe and the US. There have also been analyzed reports of specialized agencies, such as Health Care Cost Institute also from US so that by comparison, we can identify the specific dynamics and forms of funding mental illness in Romania.

Method: Starting from mental health concepts, the authors identified and analyzed the main programmatic documents and organizational framework for assessing the state of health in Romania. So, they have analyzed the National Health Programs and the Strategy for Mental Health in Romania, aiming at evolution of funds allocated in recent years to this very important area. The statistical analysis of the data specific to the area studied allowed us to study the dynamics of the allocation of public and private funds to this sector of mental health over the last years.

Results and Discussion: Financing mental health services in Romania is either with funds from the Ministry of Health or from the National House of Health. Once Romania joined the EU in 2007 it began to be concerns for funding health projects from European Funds also. The authors have identified and presented some European Funds and Operational Programs which allow funding of public mental health services, focusing on the need to increase the share of this type of financing within the total costs. It has also been studied the experience of these health services in European countries and in the United States of America. Thus, they were identified and analyzed public health system costs for job loss or depression, a disease widespread in major corporations in these states. Also they have been studied the social costs of excessive use of social networks such as Facebook and mental health at the work place. We appreciate that studying simultaneously both health costs and social ones on health mental constitute a solution for knowledge, quantification and treatment of such diseases that have a high prevalence, especially in contemporary society.

Keywords

Mental Health, Health Cost, Funding Sources, National Programs and European Funds, Social Costs of Using Social Networks, Mental Health at Working Place