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The Numbers Count: Mental Disorders in America

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Mental Disorders in America

Mental disorders are common in the United States and internationally. An estimated 26.2 percent of Americans ages 18 and older — about one in four adults — suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year.¹ When applied to the 2004 U.S. Census residential population estimate for ages 18 and older, this figure translates to 57.7 million people.² Even though mental disorders are widespread in the

the main burden of illness is concentrated in a much smaller proportion — about 1 percent — who suffer from a serious mental illness.¹ In addition, mental disorders are the leading cause of disability in the U.S. and Canada.³ Many people suffer from more than one mental disorder at a time. Nearly half (45 percent) of those with any mental disorder meet criteria for 2 or more disorders, with the severity strongly related to comorbidity.¹

In the U.S., mental disorders are diagnosed based on the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, fourth edition (DSM-IV)*.⁴

Mood Disorders

Mood disorders include major depressive disorder (<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/depression/index.shtml>), dysthymic disorder (<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/depression/index.shtml>), and bipolar disorder (<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/bipolar-disorder/index.shtml>).

- Approximately 20.9 million American adults, or about 9.5 percent of the U.S. population age 18 and older in a given year, have a mood disorder.^{1,2}
- The median age of onset for mood disorders is 30 years.⁵
- Depressive disorders often co-occur with anxiety disorders and substance abuse.⁵

Major Depressive Disorder (<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/depression/index.shtml>)

- Major Depressive Disorder is the leading cause of disability in the U.S. for ages 15-44.³
- Major depressive disorder affects approximately 14.8 million American adults, or about 6.7 percent of the U.S. population age 18 and older in a given year.^{1,2}
- While major depressive disorder can develop at any age, the median age at onset is 32.⁵
- Major depressive disorder is more prevalent in women than in men.⁶

Dysthymic Disorder (<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/depression/index.shtml>)

- Symptoms of dysthymic disorder (chronic, mild depression) must persist for at least two years in adults (one year in children) to meet criteria for the diagnosis. Dysthymic disorder affects approximately 1.5 percent of the U.S. population age 18 and older in a given year.¹ This figure translates to about 3.3 million American adults.²
- The median age of onset of dysthymic disorder is 31.¹

Bipolar Disorder (<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/bipolar-disorder/index.shtml>)

- Bipolar disorder affects approximately 5.7 million American adults, or about 2.6 percent of the U.S. population age 18 and older in a given year.^{1,2}
- The median age of onset for bipolar disorders is 25 years.⁵

Suicide (<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/suicide-in-the-us-statistics-and-prevention/index.shtml>)

- In 2006, 33,300 (approximately 11 per 100,000) people died by suicide in the U.S.⁷
- More than 90 percent of people who kill themselves have a diagnosable mental disorder, most commonly a depressive disorder or a substance abuse disorder.⁸
- The highest suicide rates in the U.S. are found in white men over age 85.⁹

METRO | NW

Judge won't reduce OHSU bill

The \$12 million judgment goes against a new state law that caps tort claims at \$3 million

By Helen Jung
hjung@oregonian.com

A jury's \$12 million verdict in favor of a boy severely injured by OHSU surgeons should stand despite the hospital's arguments to reduce the award to a \$3 million liability cap established by state law, a Multnomah County Circuit judge ruled Friday.

Judge Jerry Hodson said capping the award at a level so far below what

the jury determined to be appropriate would be "constitutionally inequitable."

But the story is far from over for the family of Tyson Horton, now 4, who nearly died and was forced to have an emergency liver transplant after OHSU surgeons cut the wrong blood vessels in a 2009 operation. Hodson acknowledged he is just "a way station" for the case as it likely heads to the Oregon Supreme Court, which will ultimately decide the legality of the Oregon Tort Claims Act and the limits it set for OHSU and other public bodies.

Hodson's decision came immedi-

ately after opposing lawyers offered arguments that examined past Oregon Supreme Court decisions.

Many of the arguments focused on what legal claims people could have pursued before the adoption of the Oregon Constitution in 1857. The court has long leaned on what was recognized under common law — legal precedent when the state Constitution was established — in determining the Legislature's latitude to cap damages or modify claims.

OHSU lawyers argued that common law would not have allowed the negligence claim against Harrison, the surgeon, because govern-

ment employees and officials were granted immunity for "discretionary acts," including actions that "require any exercise of judgment."

Maureen Leonard, arguing for the Hortons, disputed the idea that Harrison's admitted negligence — cutting vessels to the wrong side of the liver — could be considered a discretionary act. Discretion, she said, suggests doctors were analyzing the situation and weighing choices in light of a desired outcome.

That did not square with OHSU's admission in court documents that "vessels were inadvertently tran-

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BLM offers plan to help sage grouse

The effort could affect cattle ranchers, environmental groups and energy developers

By Rob Davis
rdavis@oregonian.com

The greater sage grouse, the Oregon sagebrush-dwelling bird known for its breast-inflating courtship dance, is in decline across the West. But to try to prevent the brown-and-

How to comment

The 90-day public comment period closes Feb. 20. Email comments to sagewest@blm.gov.

IN THE NEWS

Cambra's ashes removed from military cemetery

The ashes of Lawrence Cambra, the man who killed an Oregon City police officer this month, were removed from a military cemetery Thursday after officials were alerted to what he had done.

Veterans Administration regulations allow cemetery officials to deny burial when there is "clear and convincing evidence" that a person committed a capital crime but died prior to prosecution.

"We were notified of the situation and the VA did take action," said Roger Huntley, Willamette National Administrative Officer. The Cambra case was reviewed by officials with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C., he said.

Cambra's remains were taken to an Oregon City funeral home. It is unclear where they will be placed.

Cambra, 88, set his house on fire Nov. 3 and then shot Ore-



Cambra