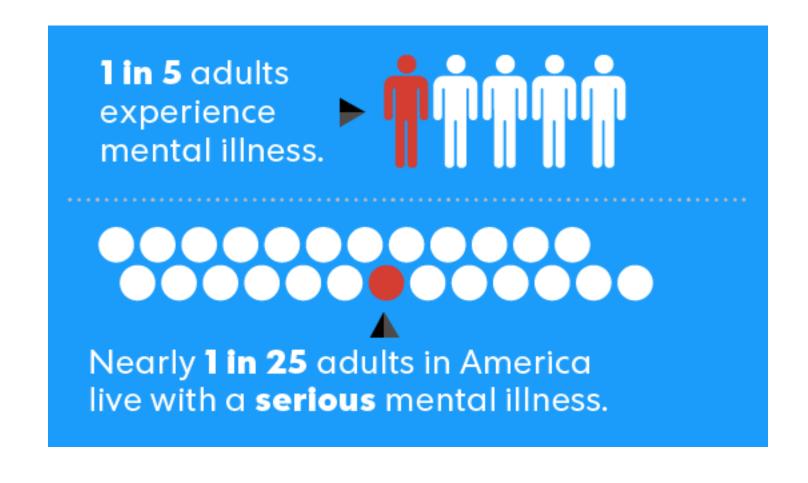


Mental Illness: Getting Past the Stigma

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Texas Legislative Council
Certified in Mental Health First Aid

Why Do We Need to Talk About This?





mental illness by the numbers

12-month prevalence for illnesses in U.S. adults

ABOUT 2.6 MILLION
AMERICAN ADULTS LIVE
WITH schizophrenia.

Major depressive disorder AFFECTS ABOUT 15.7 MILLION AMERICAN ADULTS.

6.7%

AN ESTIMATED 61.2 MILLION AMERICAN ADULTS ARE AFFECTED BY a mental disorder.

26.2%

Bipolar disorder AFFECTS 6.1 MILLION AMERICAN ADULTS PER YEAR.

AN ESTIMATED 9.6 MILLION
AMERICAN ADULTS HAVE
Attention Deficit
Hyperactivity Disorder
(ADHD).

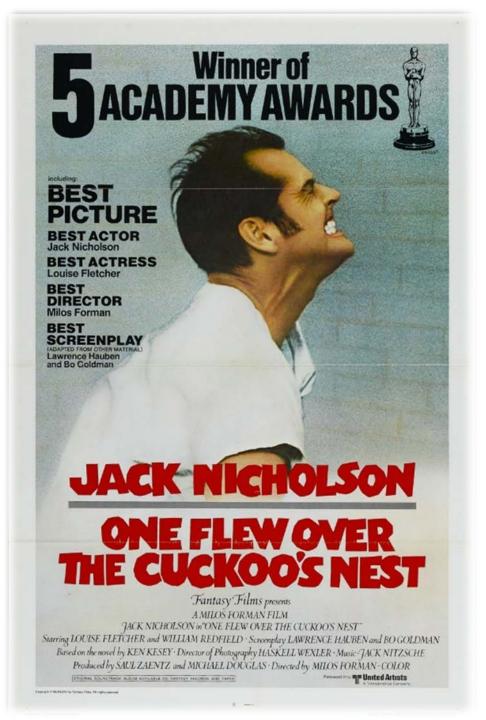
stigma

/ˈstɪgmə/

noun

 a mark of disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality, or person. "the stigma of mental disorder"

Movies...



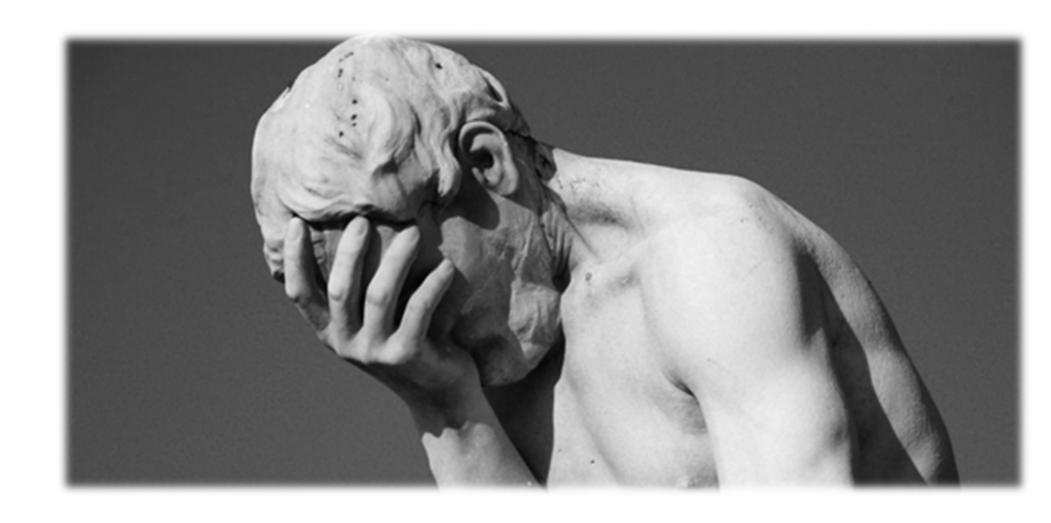
The Media...



Our History...



Shame...



Negative Personal

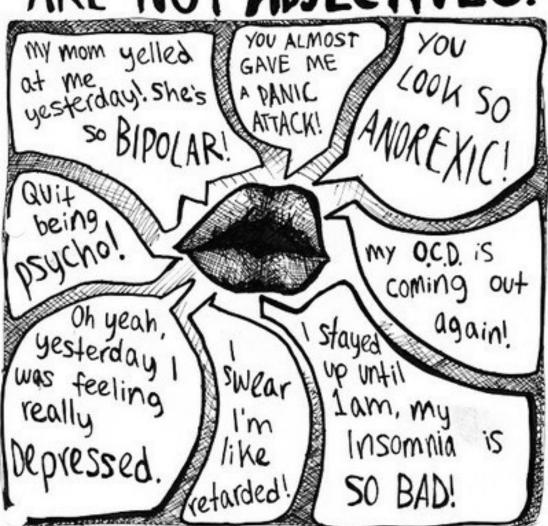
Experience...



Fear Itself...



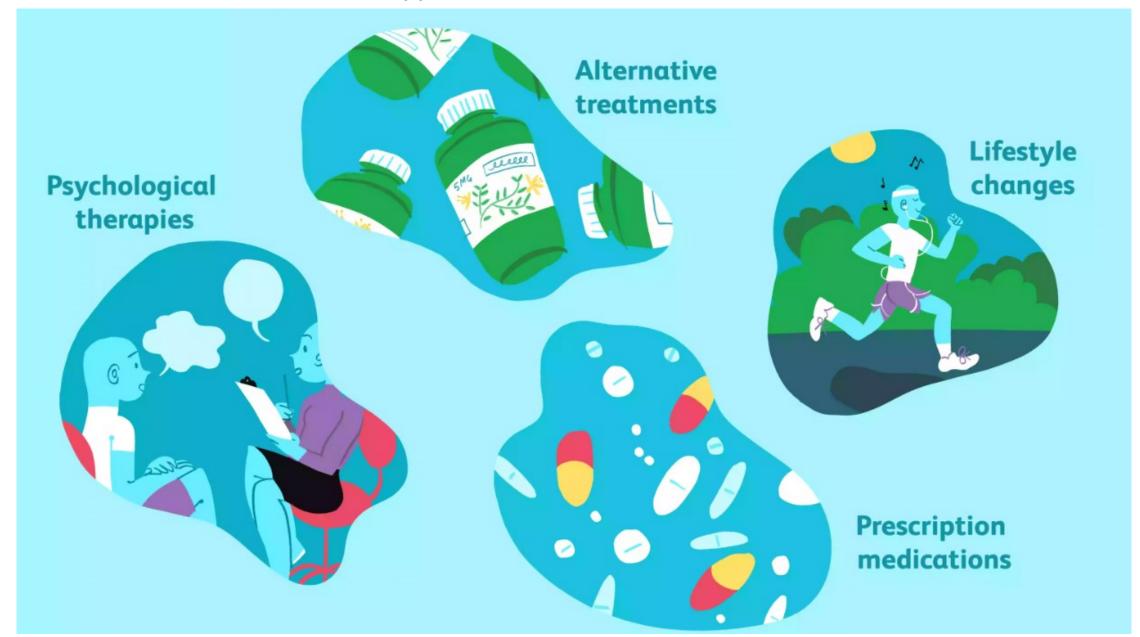




Finding the Right Words

What Not to Say:	Try Instead:
"How's your health?"	"How can we help you do your job?"
"You seem depressed."	"You're not your usual self."
"Snap out of it."	"Do you want to talk about it?"
"Think positive."	"It's always OK to ask for help."
"I know exactly what you're going through."	"It's hard for me to understand exactly what you're going through, but I can see that it's distressing for you."

Types of Treatment





Americans With Disabilities Act

The ADA defines disability as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities (with or without treatment). When job applicants or employees have a mental health condition that meets this criteria, they have workplace rights under the ADA.

Employers must provide reasonable accommodations to applicants and workers with psychiatric disabilities (and other disabilities) unless this causes undue hardship. In most cases, individuals with diagnosed mental health conditions are covered under the ADA and have a right to job accommodations.



Would you hesitate to offer help?







Just Ask!



- Your Human Resources Department
- Mental Health First Aid Training
- Employee Assistance Program
- Suicide Hotline
- EEOC Website
- Job Accommodation Network (JAN)
- NAMI