

UNLISTED: A STORY OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

FACT SHEET

- One in 100 people have schizophrenia, twice as common as HIV/AIDS
- The growing numbers of people with schizophrenia is part of larger mental health crisis in the US, from suicides on school campuses, returning veterans suffering mental problems, to thousands of mentally ill living on the streets.
- Schizophrenia is a chronic brain disease. MRI scans often reveal brain anatomy differences and lab tests show abnormal brain chemical levels
- Symptoms begin around age 16 to 30, and include delusions, social withdrawal, and problems with rational thought
- The cause of schizophrenia is unknown but genetics do play a factor. The risk of developing schizophrenia increase from 1% in the general population to 10% if a parent has the illness
- The vast majority of people with schizophrenia will have improvement of symptoms on antipsychotic medications
- Roughly 50% of afflicted individuals are not receiving any treatment

Reasons for this include:

1. About half of afflicted individuals lack insight into their condition and thus do not think they need treatment
2. Public community mental health clinics, established in the 1960s, have been underfunded
3. There is a national shortage of psychiatric hospital beds for crisis care (17 beds/100,000 US population vs. 100/100,000 in France)
4. A person experiencing a severe mental crisis often will only receive hospital care if they are deemed to be in "imminent" danger of hurting themselves or others. Many family members, health professionals, and others, believe that a "need for treatment" would be a better criteria than waiting for the person to be in imminent danger.

For more information and helpful resources, including a free Screening Toolkit, please visit: www.unlistedfilm.com