disorder appears to exceed 415,000 (31,905 x (2.735%)) + (17,000 x (3.435%)). On average, 1.5 workdays are lost by staff following patient assault at an annual cost of $444.4 million (based on hourly pay rates for nurses and doctors of $41 and $162, respectively). CONCLUSIONS: Rapid and effective de-escalation of agitation among patients with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder seeking care in the ED may reduce the incidence and associated costs of staff assaults.

CHARACTERISTICS OF HOSPITALIZATIONS FOR ATTENTION-DEFICIT/HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER (ADHD) AMONG CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN THE UNITED STATES FROM 2000–2006

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OBJECTIVES: The aim of this research was to evaluate patient characteristics, length of stay (LOS), and costs among children and adolescents hospitalized in the United States (US) for ADHD. METHODS: The study used data from 2000–2006 in the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project Nationwide Inpatient Sample (HCUP-NIS). Patients included were children (6–11 years old) and adolescents (12–17 years old) that were hospitalized with a primary diagnosis of ADHD (ICD-9-CM 314.00 or 314.01). Data collected includes gender, age, race, payer type, admission source, admission type, geographic region, hospital status, year admitted, mean LOS and mean costs. RESULTS: Among children, 28,247 patients met inclusion criteria and 83.74% were male. Medicaid was the most common form of health insurance coverage (68.97%) followed by private insurance (26.67%). The majority of patients were hospitalized in inpatient locations (93.83%) and admitted from the emergency room (38.77%). Mean (SE) LOS was 10.76 days (0.85) and mean (SE) costs were $10,106 (68.97%). Among adolescents, 21,612 patients met inclusion criteria and 75.70% were male. Medicaid was the most common form of health insurance (57.38%) followed by private insurance (42.62%). The majority of patients were hospitalized in inpatient locations (93.83%) and admitted from the emergency room (38.77%). Mean (SE) LOS was 8.66 days (0.66) and mean (SE) costs were $7886 (1138). The number of hospitalizations for ADHD in each individual year from 2000–2006 was fairly constant for both children and adolescents. CONCLUSIONS: Children and adolescents hospitalized for ADHD carry a substantial economic burden to the US health care system. The majority of these patients are male, come from urban locations and have Medicaid as their primary form of health insurance. Health care decision makers should be aware of the burden of ADHD in these populations. Research evaluating the impact of behavioural and/or pharmacological ADHD treatment on hospitalizations should be explored.

SOCIAL COSTS OF OPIOID ABUSE, DEPENDENCE, AND MISUSE IN THE UNITED STATES

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OBJECTIVES: Estimate the current societal costs of opioid abuse, dependence, and misuse. METHODS: Costs associated with opioid abuse were grouped into three major categories: health care, workplace, and criminal justice. Two general principles were adopted to estimate costs: 1) a quantity method, which multiplies the number of opioid abuse patients by the estimated cost per opioid abuse patient, and, 2) an apportionment method, which begins with the overall costs of drug abuse for a cost category and apportions the share associated with opioid abuse on the relative prevalence of opioid abuse to overall drug abuse. Excess health care costs per patient were based on analysis of two claims datasets: a privately-insured population and Florida Medicaid. Other data/information was derived from publicly-available secondary resources (e.g., academic research, government reports and surveys). RESULTS: Total societal costs of opioid abuse in the U.S. were estimated at $55.5 billion annually (2008 dollars). Disaggregated by major category, workplace costs accounted for $25.1 billion (46%), health care costs accounted for $24.2 billion (44%), and criminal justice costs accounted for $5.2 billion (10%). Workplace costs were driven by lost earnings due to premature death ($11.1 billion) and reduced compensation/lost employment associated with opioid abuse ($7.8 billion). Health care costs consisted primarily of excess medical and prescription drug costs for opioid abuse patients ($23.0 billion). Criminal justice costs were largely made up of correctional facility costs attributable to opioid abuse ($2.2 billion) and police protection costs attributable to opioid abuse ($1.5 billion). CONCLUSIONS: The costs of opioid abuse represent a substantial and growing economic burden for society in the U.S. The increasing prevalence of abuse and related spending suggest an even greater burden in the future. Recent initiatives developed by the government, clinicians, and the health care industry may help reduce the burden of opioid abuse.

COST OF ILLNESS OF POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER COMPARED WITH MAJOR DEPRESSIVE DISORDER

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OBJECTIVES: Compare health care costs of patients with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) to those of patients with major depressive disorder (MDD) in U.S. Medicaid and privately-insured populations. METHODS: Patients with 22 PTSD diagnoses (ICD-9-CM: 309.81) on/after January 1, 1999 and 21 PTSD diagnosis on/after January 1, 2003 were identified from Medicaid claims data from Florida, Missouri, and New Jersey (1999-2007) and from a privately-insured claims database (1999-2008). The index date was defined as the first PTSD diagnosis on/after 1/1/2003 that was not the first overall PTSD diagnosis. PTSD patients had not been hospitalized for the 6-month baseline period before and 12-month study period following their index date and were ages 18–64 during the study period. Potential MDD controls (ICD-9-CM: 296.2, 296.3) without PTSD diagnosis were identified using similar selection criteria. MDD controls were matched to PTSD patients on age, gender, state/region, employment status, index year, and race (for Medicaid patients). Study period direct costs, calculated as reimbursements in 2008 dollars to third-party payers for medical services and prescription drugs, were compared between PTSD patients and matched MDD controls using nonparametric bootstrapping. In the baseline period, PTSD patients had higher rates of other medical disorders (e.g., anxiety, bipolar disorders), and higher average direct costs than MDD controls both in the Medicaid and privately-insured populations. Among Medicaid patients, PTSD patients also had lower average Charlson Comorbidity Index compared with MDD controls. Average study period direct costs were higher for PTSD patients than MDD controls ($10,753 vs. $15,990 for Medicaid and $10,960 vs. $10,024 for privately-insured, both p < 0.05). The difference in direct costs was driven by higher mental health-related costs for PTSD patients than for MDD controls. CONCLUSIONS: PTSD patients had approximately 4–10% higher direct costs in the 12-month study period compared to MDD controls driven by higher mental-health-related direct costs.