

# M.I.R.F.A. Mental Illness Research Foundation of America

Searching For a Cure...

## What is the mission of M.I.R.F.A.?

- ✚ MIRFA is the Mental Illness Research Foundation of America. The purpose of the Foundation is to seek and to find a cure(s) for serious and persistent mental illness in adults and serious emotional disturbance in youth. The Foundation shall serve as a mental health charitable foundation, empowered to accept donations from all sources, in support of the search for a cure and to use these charitable donations to establish a research and treatment hospital-inviting researchers to establish a research center and to support these researchers in their efforts to search for a cure.

## Did you know...?

- Suicide is the third leading cause of death for 15- to 24-year-olds and the sixth leading cause of death for 5- to 14-year-olds. The number of attempted suicides is even higher (AACAP, 1997).
- More than 54 million Americans have a mental disorder in any given year, although fewer than 8 million seek treatment (SGRMH, 1999).
- An estimated 22.1 percent of Americans ages 18 and older – about 1 in 5 adults – suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year.
- Four of the ten leading causes of disability in the United States are mental disorders – major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and obsessive-compulsive disorder.
- Mental illness, including suicide, accounts for over 15 percent of the burden of disease in established market economies, such as the United States. This is more than the disease burden caused by all cancers.

Statistics provided by:  
<http://www.nmha.org/infoctr/factsheets/15.cf>  
<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/healthinformation/statisticsmenu.cfm>

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