

REVIEW OF MENTAL AND BEHAVIOR DISORDERS MORBIDITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, 2007-2011

Accomplished by:

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Introduction

All countries in the world cope with mental health (MH) disorders in men and women alike of all ages – be it among the elderly or youth, poor or rich, rural or urban residents. Many believe there are few people facing such health conditions, yet the statistical data show that about 60% of population is seeking care for MH issues. Mental disorders account for circa 12% of the total number of medical conditions, and those are forecast to reach as high as 15% by 2020, with depression believed to become the commonest condition reported in developed countries. There are 121 million people with depression worldwide – twice as many women than men, 70 million people with alcohol abuse, 50 million with seizures, 45 million with schizophrenia, and 37 million – with dementia. Currently, approximately 58,000 people commit suicide each year in the EU member states – more than deaths owing to road accidents, crime or HIV/AIDS. About 25% of the UK residents face a MH problem during their lifetime, while USA is ranking top in the incidence of people with MH issues. Having underdeveloped MH services, developing countries risk reporting the highest growth in the number of mental disorders. According to the WHO data, one in five children is facing a MH issue and two-thirds of them do not get the care they need. Moreover, the research shows that as many as 50% to 75% of preschool age children presenting with behavior issues continue to do so until six years of age and older, too. Intervening early in the treatment of children with MH disorders is yielding better results, thus lowering the incidence of MH disorders during adulthood.

MH issues affect millions of people and, unless treated, cause extreme suffering, disability and economic loss, posing a significant burden to the social, education, legal and healthcare systems. Despite treatment options available and progress accomplished in psychiatric care, people with MH deficiency or disability still face social exclusion, stigma, discrimination and violation of their dignity and their fundamental rights, which is a challenge for one's fundamental values.

MH disabilities costs in EU account for about 3-4% of GDP, mostly through lower productivity. MH disorders are the leading cause for early retirement and disability entitlement. In USA people with MH conditions die 25 years earlier than the average life expectancy countrywide. Childhood conduct and behavior issues imply costs for the social, education, penal, correctional and legal systems. Other indirect costs are linked to the way the society treats people with disabilities or MH conditions. Despite the potentially successful treatment, only a small proportion of those requiring therapy do get it.

1. Materials and Methodology

This review draws upon the reporting forms no.36-san ‘on mental health and behavior disorders (net of alcoholic psychoses, alcoholism, drug addiction, substance abuse)’. In order to analyze the morbidity associated with temporary work disability, we looked into the ‘statistical annual data logs’ and the MoH formal reports from 2007 to 2011. In order to study primary disability, we processed and reviewed the reporting forms no.27 ‘on the performance of the Boards for Medical Expertise of Disabilities’.

2. Review of the Epidemiological Data available in the RM

There were 97,525 patients with mental and behavior disorders reported in Moldova at the end of 2011. Children accounted for 18.4% of all patients. A review of how spread the studied phenomenon is showed a growing number of patients with mental and behavior disorders in 2011 – 3,419 cases more than in 2007, but 1,039 cases short of 2010 values.

There were 14,655 new cases of mental and behavior disorders in 2011, or 15% of all reported cases. Of all these new cases, 4,505 were children, i.e. 30.7% of the total number of new cases. Noteworthy is that the absolute number of new cases went up by 150 as compared to 2007, but dropped by 242 cases as compared to 2010.

Figure 1 Incidence of MH and Behavior Disorders, 2007-2011, absolute figures

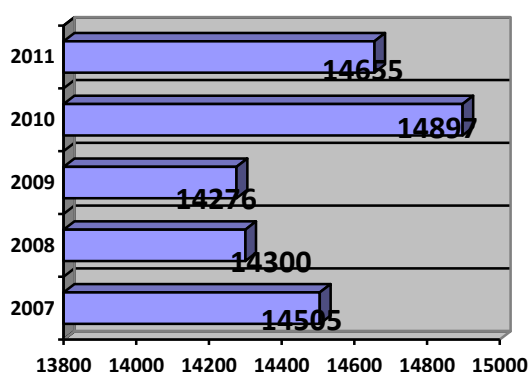
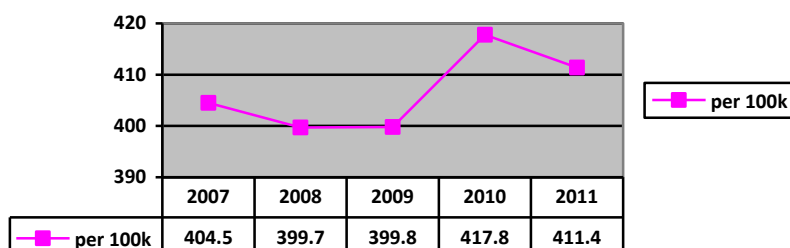


Figure 2 Incidence of Mental and Behavior Disorders, 2007-2011, per 100,000



This prevalence is caused by four conditions:

- I – Non-psychotic mental and behavior disorders – 48.8% (47,584 people);
- II – Mental retardation – 29.8% (29,078 people);
- III – Schizophrenia, schizotypal disorders and deliriums – 13.5% (13,118 people);
- IV – Psychotic organic and affective mental disorders and dementia – 7.9% (7,745 people).

Noteworthy, this breakdown was the same all throughout the review. Women accounted for 42.7% of the total number of patients reported with mental disorders.

Listed below in Table 1 is the MH and behavior morbidity in Moldova over 5 years.

Table 1 MH and Behavior Morbidity in Moldova, 2007–2011 (abs.)

Cases/year	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	total	children	total	children	Total	children	total	children	total	children
Incidence	14505	5261	14300	4648	14276	4703	14897	4747	14655	4505
Prevalence	94106	19891	95803	18977	97623	18914	98564	18640	97525	17920

Prevalence and incidence of mental and behavior disorders have been steadily growing over the last 5 years of review until 2010, and dropped by 1% in 2011 (Figures 2 and 4).

Figure 3 Prevalence of Mental and Behavior Disorders, 2007-2011, absolute figures

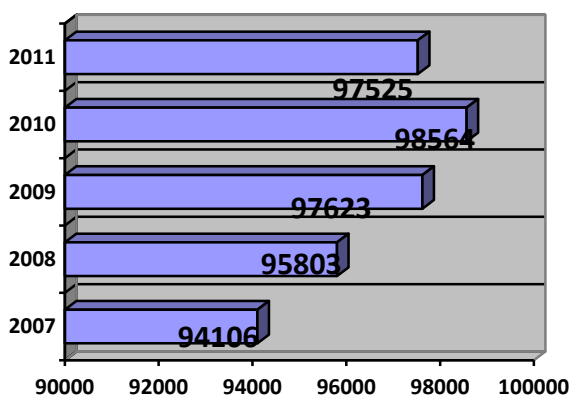
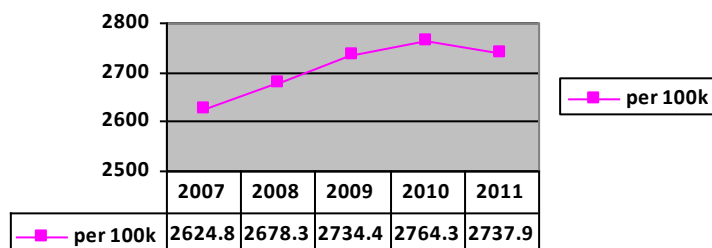


Figure 4 Prevalence of mental and Behavior Disorders, 2007-2011, per 100,000



There were 55,090 patients registered and followed up at the end of 2011, including 17.7% (abs. 9,764) children and 46.6% (25,663) women. Working age patients accounted for 70.8%, while rural residents totaled 66.2%. Of the total number of patients followed up, 18.1% had a job and 1.5% (846) were under tutorship. There have been 65 suicide attempts committed by patients in 2011, 30 of which were successful.

One in three patients (35.3%) present with non-psychotic mental and behavior disorders, 33.8% - retard mental, 20.1% of patients – with schizophrenia, schizotypal disorders and delirium, including 89.1% with schizophrenia. Approximately 10.7% of patients present with psychotic organic and affective mental disorders and dementia.

Table 2 below shows the number of preventive visits and sickness visits in 2011.

Table 2 Psychiatrist Visits in 2011

Cases/year	Total visits (abs.)	0-18 y.o. (abs.)	Adults (abs)	Total per 10k	0-18 y.o. (10 thousand)	Adults (10 thousand)
Visits for sickness episode	238 526	60 873	177 653	669,0	784,5	636,8
Total preventive visits	128 699	45 400	83 299	369,0	585,1	298,6

The number of patients getting consultative-curative care is growing during the reference period: 27,404 in 2007 vs. 38,977 in 2011, averaging 33,190 patients a year.

3. Disability

Primary disability in Moldova refers to that in women between 18 and 57 years of age and in men – between 18 and 62 years of age. Disability in children is ascertained until 18 years-old by the Consultative Medical Boards of the public healthcare facilities, while for those 18 years or age and older are examined by the Medical Disability Assessment Board, counting towards the ‘childhood disability’ group.

Table 3 MH and Behavior Disorders related Disability in Moldova, 2007–2011 (abs.)

Cases/year		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Primary disability	Abs	1286	1369	1295	1357	1237

	per 100k	35.8	38.2	36.2	38.1	34.7
People with disability degree	Abs	26958	28662	28738	29155	28594
	per 100k	719.0	801.2	804.9	817.7	802.7

There were 26,958 patients with mental and behavior disorders and a disability degree (new and known cases) reported overall at the end of 2007 – constantly growing each year until 2010. The total number of patients with disability increased by 2,197, reaching 29,155 in 2010. There were 561 fewer disabled reported in 2011, going down to 28,594, of which new cases – 4.3%.

Listed below is the breakdown of mental / behavior disorders resulting in disability degree:

- Mental retardation – 36.1%
- Psychotic organic and affective mental disorders and dementia – 25%
- Schizophrenia, schizotypal disorders and delirium – 26.6%

These three groups account for 87.7% of all mental disorders.

Conclusions

1. There were upward-sloping trends reported in the morbidity rate of mental and behavior disorders over 4 years: 94,106 in 2007 vs. 98,564 in 2010, while dropping by about 1% (1,039) in 2011 (97,525 people).
2. The MH and behavior disorders morbidity in Moldova is caused by 4 large groups of disorders, in descending order: non-psychotic mental and behavior disorders 48.8%, mental retardation – 29.8%, schizophrenia, schizotypal disorders and delirium – 13.5%, psychotic organic and affective mental disorders and dementia – 7.9%.
3. Children accounted for 17,920, i.e. 18.4%, of the overall prevalence (97,525) and 4,505, i.e. 30.7%, of the overall incidence (14,625).
4. There were 55,090 patients registered and followed up as of the end of 2011, including 17.7% (9,764) children and 46.6% (25,663) women.
5. Of the total number of those registered and followed-up, 18.1% had a job, and 1.5% were in custody.
6. The number of patients with a disability degree owing to mental and behavior disorders was growing over 4 years (26,958 in 2007 vs. 29,155 in 2010) and then dropping by 561 in 2011 (28,594), i.e. about 1.9%.
7. The breakdown of the disability-causing mental and behavior disorders was: mental retardation – 36.1%, psychotic organic and affective mental disorders and dementia – 25%,

schizophrenia, schizotypal disorders and delirium – 26.6%. These three groups of conditions account for 87.7% of all disabled patients.