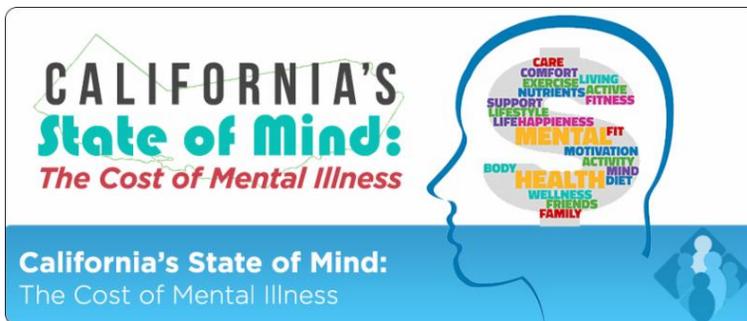


The Partnership's Pulse: Special Summer Edition



Did you know that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that only about 17% of U.S. adults are considered to be in state of optimal mental health? Or that there is a strong connection between mental health and other chronic diseases? Not only does this growing crisis impact many individuals' quality of life, but it could cost states up to [\\$3.5 trillion](#). It's clear we must prioritize tackling mental health issues, and the increasing impact they have on our patients lives and state's budget.

Last month, CPAT hosted two seminars to examine the economic and human costs of mental illness in California. At sold out events in Sacramento and Riverside, attendees learned from behavioral health experts, doctors and patient advocates about the barriers to access mental health patients face.

From medication adherence, to early detection and timely access to care, attendees discussed primary solutions to mitigate the effects of mental illness and help achieve health care savings. Check out an [article](#) about the Riverside event in Spanish-language publication La Prensa.

Find additional resources about the cost of mental illness at the [Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease](#).

Stay Connected



About CPAT News

The California Partnership for Access to Treatment (CPAT) is pleased to provide our latest issue of *The Partnership Pulse*, a bi-monthly e-news publication, for our partners, members and supporters.

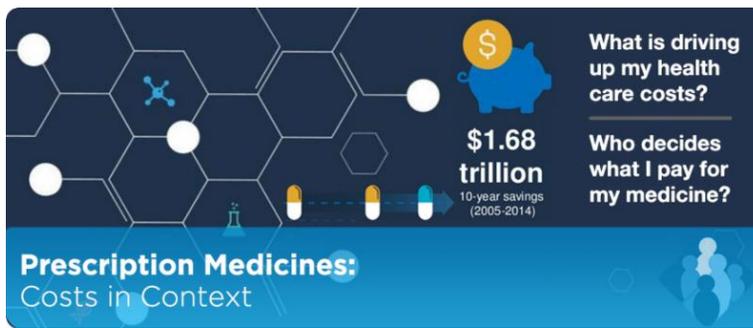
This newsletter highlights state and national health care issues and trends.

CPAT's diverse network of advocacy organizations, community groups, health care providers and employers is committed to ensuring a healthy and productive California.

Please visit [our website](#) for more information about CPAT's free health education network.

Health Access Resources

CPAT helps connect



Drug prices are growing at the [slowest rate](#) in years, but sometimes it doesn't feel that way. A recent report shows that growth in drug prices this year was half of last year, and the average out-of-pocket costs to consumers has decreased. Unfortunately consumers don't see this benefit, as patients are more frequently being asked to pay more for branded drugs, while their insurers and employers pocket the discount.

On average, medicines are cheaper. But in exceptional cases, patients have to pay way more. Why? [Learn more](#) about why consumers aren't benefiting from this year's slowed drug price growth.



The stigma of mental health is deep-rooted in multicultural communities. All too often, fear of admittance leads to delayed diagnosis and treatment. That's why the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Office of Minority Mental Health](#) has designated July as "[National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month](#)."

Throughout the month of July, the Office is hosting a series of Twitter chats (@MinorityHealth) to spark discussion on behavioral health methods, community support systems, and disparities in mental health.

We urge to you participate as these vital conversations drive normalization of mental illness and bring to light the access to treatment challenges minority patients face.

partners to information about the changing nature of health care as well as innovations in treatments:

[My Patient Rights](#)

The California Chronic Care Coalition launched this online resource for Californians who have been denied coverage, experienced delays, or are dissatisfied by the decisions made by their health plan.

[Office of the Patient Advocate](#)

The Office of the Patient Advocate's mission is to improve California health care quality and advocate for consumer interests by publicly reporting data for informed decision making.

[Partnership for Prescription Assistance](#)

The Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA) increases awareness of patient assistance programs. PPA is a single point of access to more than 475 public and private programs, including about 200 programs offered by biopharmaceutical companies.

[Medicare.gov](#)

Medicare is the federal health insurance program for people who are 65 or older, certain younger people with disabilities, and people with End-Stage Renal Disease. Medicare.gov is the official U.S. Government site for Medicare.



Partner Spotlight:

American Liver Foundation, Northern California



Thirty million Americans, or 1 in 10, are personally affected by nearly 100 types of liver disease. One of our partners, The American Liver Foundation Northern California (ALF), is working every day to facilitate, advocate, and promote education, support, and research for the prevention, treatment, and cure of liver disease.

We're excited to join ALF September 16 in San Francisco as they walk to raise awareness for liver wellness and raise funds that will help youth, patients, and our communities fight liver disease. Post-walk festivities include booths, music, raffle and activities for children.

[Learn more.](#)

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