

Schizophrenia: Public Health Perspectives

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Abstract—Schizophrenia is a severe mental disorder with prevalence of approximately 1%. It is characterized by distortion of thought, perception, affect and cognition leading to development of delusions, hallucinations, affective disturbances, deficits of cognition, aggressive behavior and disorganization. These symptoms cause significant impairments in the functioning of the individuals and compromise the quality of life. The impact of schizophrenia is not only limited to the life of the person, who is suffering from it. It also affects their caregivers, social relations and many more domains. Patients with schizophrenia are subjected to violence, abuse, isolation and stigma. Suicide and substance use are highly prevalent in patients suffering from schizophrenia. Schizophrenia is a major public health concern. This symposium focuses on different important public health aspects of schizophrenia.