

The landscape of mental health care in Sierra Leone

Mental health disorders are among the most prevalent burdensome and untreated health conditions globally. In low-to-middle income countries (LMICs), approximately 80% of people do not receive appropriate services for mental health issues.[1] In Sierra Leone, it was estimated that 98% of those with severe mental health disorders, in 2009, had not received treatment for their condition [2] These treatment gaps are often exacerbated when LMICs experience a national emergency, such as

The

most recent National Health Promotion Strategy of Sierra Leone (2017-2021) cited older adolescents as the target audience of future government-

schizophrenia – amongst young adults in the nation. [3] The Ebola crisis has had an impact on survivors of all ages; the experience of grief, long-term health issues and stigma have resulted in an increase in similar mental health issues. [5] Based on global prevalence rates, it is estimated that mental health disorders will impact 1 in 5 Sierra Leoneans during their lifetime.[6]

- **Global stigma around mental health care and mental health disorders inhibits**
all





Advantages: General primary care facilities are often

socially acceptable
psychiatric
against; barrier
of fear of re
community
health care
generalized
for related

Disadvantages: Relying on health care workers











