

SCHIZOPHRENIA

Schizophrenia is a persistent and often disabling mental illness affecting how a person thinks, feels, and behaves. While the exact cause is unknown, research indicates a combination of genetics, psychosocial stressors, and environment contribute to the development of schizophrenia and individual variation of symptoms.¹

MEASURING THE IMPACT

Schizophrenia affects approximately

24 million people worldwide,

including 2.8 million in the United States.^{1,2}

It is characterized by three symptom domains:¹



Positive

Hallucinations and delusions



Negative

Difficulty enjoying life and withdrawal from others



Cognitive impairment

Deficits in memory, concentration, and decision making

Given the nature of the symptoms, schizophrenia can affect all areas of people's lives and is one of the **top 15 leading causes of disability worldwide.**³

Signs and symptoms of schizophrenia usually first appear in **teenage years or early adulthood.**⁴

As such, people living with schizophrenia **often struggle to maintain employment, live independently, and manage relationships.**^{5,6}

This can have a detrimental impact, with an **increased likelihood of homelessness, poverty, and inadequate self-care.**¹

The **estimated potential life lost is almost 30 years** compared with the general population, which is largely attributed to comorbidities such as heart disease, diabetes, and liver disease, which often remain undetected and undertreated.⁷

The **financial burden caused by schizophrenia is disproportionately high** compared to other chronic conditions.⁷

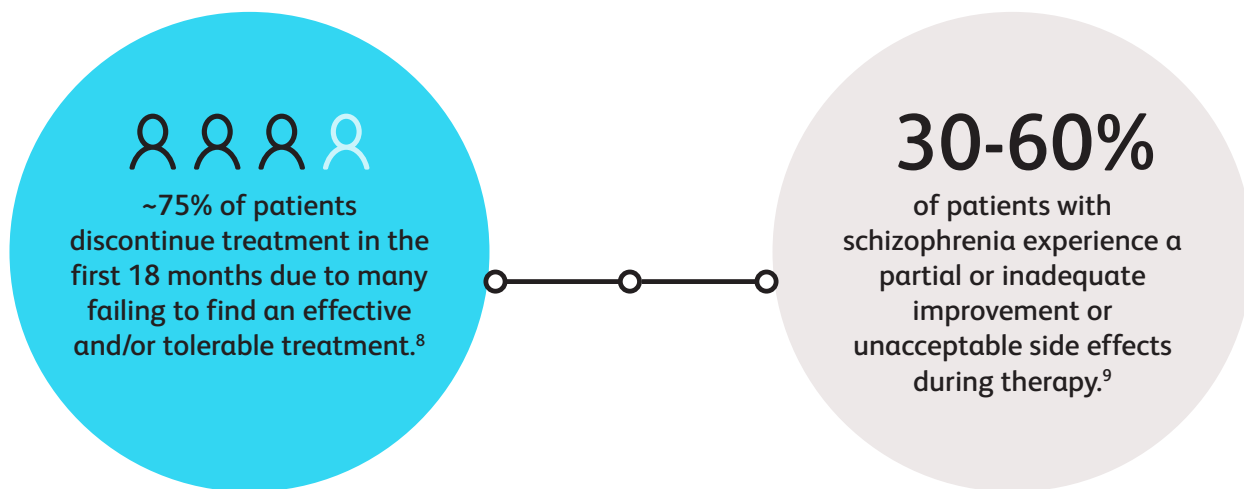
Unfortunately, many people living with schizophrenia are also **burdened by the stigma associated with mental health conditions.**

TREATMENTS EXIST, BUT DIFFERENTIATED OPTIONS ARE NEEDED

While there is no cure, there are treatments available that focus on managing schizophrenia symptoms and navigating challenges related to day-to-day functioning, such as medications and psychosocial support.

Antipsychotic medications are the most commonly prescribed treatment.

While there are differences among antipsychotic therapies, all currently available treatments work primarily through a dopamine receptor blocking mechanism.



Although many people living with schizophrenia have difficulty finding a tolerable and effective treatment, with the help of a dedicated care team, **it is possible for people with schizophrenia to lead full lives.**

To learn more about Bristol Myers Squibb's commitment to people living with psychiatric and neurological conditions, visit [BMS.com](https://www.bms.com).

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