The lifetime burden of schizophrenia applying a government perspective fiscal analytic framework

Schizophrenia is a chronic and complex mental illness severely affecting individuals, often early in life. Persistent symptoms impact everyday functioning, social interactions, academic and professional activities, and the ability of living independently. It is estimated that 3.04 million adult individuals live with schizophrenia in the US. Despite its relatively small prevalence, the economic burden of schizophrenia to society has been estimated to exceed $341.5 billion in 2019. A substantial share of this burden falls on the US Government and Social Security Administration (SSA).

We estimated the lifetime fiscal burden applying a government perspective fiscal analytic modeling framework to estimate lost tax revenue and broader government costs. The analysis used a US government and Social Security Administration perspective of costs. The model was run over a 70-year time horizon.

In individuals with schizophrenia compared to those in the general population, a 0.5 life years difference. Since onset of the disease at age 30, a person with schizophrenia was associated with an excess fiscal burden of $870.012 to the US government and Social Security Administration (Table 1, Figure 2). In a person with schizophrenia, the largest component of the fiscal burden was related to healthcare costs (60.1%, $209,393), followed by lost tax revenue (23.6%, $209,393), and the remaining 15.5% due to criminal justice, incarceration, victimization, and homelessness costs (Table 1, Figure 2). The model also predicted that 20.0% ($15,149) of the incremental net consequences were related to foregone tax revenue in informal caregivers (Table 1, Figure 2).

The Markov states were defined using efficacy and safety data. The model schematic can be accessed using the remaining 15.5% due to criminal justice, incarceration, victimization, and homelessness costs (Table 1, Figure 2). The model also predicted that 20.0% ($15,149) of the incremental net consequences were related to foregone tax revenue in informal caregivers (Table 1, Figure 2).

The analysis used a US government and Social Security Administration perspective of costs. The model was run over a 70-year time horizon. Costs and life years were discounted at 3% annually.

The model predicted 20.0% ($15,149) of the incremental net consequences were related to foregone tax revenue in informal caregivers (Table 1, Figure 2).

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