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Schizophrenia and Social Stigma: How Society Views Those With Mental Illness
Rebecca Littrel (Mentor: Rob Wilson, Ph.D)

Introduction:

- Schizophrenia is a mental disease which affects patients with disorganized thoughts, erratic behavior and hallucinations.
- The cause of Schizophrenia is unknown, but it is thought to be caused by a mixture of genetic and physiological factors such as trauma.
- Men are most typically affected by the disease, seeing symptoms develop in the mid to late twenties.

Findings:

- 52% of those diagnosed with schizophrenia experience low self esteem caused by stigma surrounding the disease.
- 13% of those diagnosed with schizophrenia have committed suicide in the last year.
- 40% of those diagnosed with schizophrenia had a hard time finding work and getting insurance coverage.

Conclusion

- Media and everyday life affects the way that society looks at mental illness.
- Asking questions and learning about mental illness can help eliminate stigma for those who are diagnosed with schizophrenia.
- People diagnosed with mental illness are much more than their mental disease.

Sources:
- Theocharis, Chr. Kyziridis, “Notes on the history of schizophrenia”
- Kim Nguyen-Finn, “History of Treatment Persons With Psychiatric Disabilities.”
- Constance B Caldwell, Irving I Gottman, “Schizophrenics Kill themselves too: A Review of Risk factors for Suicide”