



Creating behaviour change among this group is essential if cancer incidence and mortality are to be reduced. Research should explore initiatives which are successful in supporting those with mental health problems to make lifestyle changes. The targeting of information should also be explored as a method for disseminating lifestyle and cancer information to this group. At the same time there are gaps in knowledge relating to the unmet need for cancer information and services among this group and research could be developed to explore this issue further.

Training should be offered to health professionals, who work with patients with a mental health problem, to increase their ability to communicate cancer messages and recognise cancer signs and symptoms amongst this group.

## Background

According to Mind around 300 people will experience a mental health problem every year in Britain. Of this group 230 will be referred to a specialist psychiatric service and 6 will be admitted to a psychiatric hospital. Depression, anxiety and depression, the most common form of mental illness, was experienced by 9.2 per cent of adults in Britain. In schizophrenia the Office for National Statistics found a lifetime prevalence of less than 1 per cent and prevalence rates of between 2-4 per 1000.

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