

Mental health. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors in July 2014 passed Laura's Law, which allows courts to order treatment for mentally ill individuals who have a history of unsuccessful treatment. According to the law, an authorized person, such as a family member or probation officer, can request treatment for an individual through a county mental health director, who would then petition the county's Superior Court to order as much as six months of treatment. If the individual refuses the mandated treatment, he or she can be detained for psychological evaluation for as long as 72 hours.

Laura's Law, named after Laura Wilcox, a mental health worker who was killed in 2001 by a patient who had refused treatment, became California law in 2002. However, local officials were required to authorize the law before it could be implemented. San Francisco was the first large city to authorize the law. In May 2014, Orange County became the first large county to adopt the law.

Proponents of Laura's Law argued that it would benefit patients who had "fallen through the cracks" of the mental health system. Opponents countered that the law had the potential to be abused and that it effectively criminalized mental illness.

Effects of bullying. Getting bullied in childhood may increase the risk of depression, mental distress, anxiety disorders, and suicidal thoughts in middle age, according to an April 2014 report by researchers at King's College London. The researchers analyzed data on 18,000 people born in the United Kingdom in 1958. The data included information on bullying experiences as children and mental health, general health, personal relationships, and financial condition as adults.

The analysis suggested that getting bullied either frequently or occasionally was associated with poorer health in adults, including both general and psychological health. The data also linked children's bullying experiences to adults' lower education level, greater likelihood of being single, less socialization with friends, and less satisfaction with their finances and lives. Although the results of the study indicated that adverse effects of bullying may last decades, the analysts said that further research was needed to weigh the role of bullying versus other childhood factors in problems faced by adults.

Treatment of military personnel. The proportion of personnel in the United States military being treated for mental health conditions increased from 1 percent in 2000 to 3.5 percent in 2012. That finding was announced in June 2014 by the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation, an organization in New York City that funds mental health research. The foundation's president, psy-

chiatrist Jeffrey Borenstein, noted that the increase was the result of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as enhanced efforts by the U.S. Armed Forces to make sure that personnel in need of treatment receive it. However, Borenstein added that these efforts should be further expanded because many service members continued to lack treatment for their mental illness. Previous studies had suggested that as much as 25 percent of military personnel have mental health problems ranging from mild anxiety to severe, suicidal depression.

Affordable Care Act. The enactment of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has resulted in a nine-percent increase in hospital admissions for people aged 19 to 25 with mental health conditions since 2010, according to an analysis published in June 2014 on the National Bureau of Economic Research's Web site. Economists at Indiana University in Bloomington and Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, credited the increase to a provision of the ACA that allows people to stay covered by their parents' health insurance plans until they are 26 years old. The economists noted, however, that the greater hospital use by newly insured young people might also be related to inadequate outpatient treatment options.

■ A. J. Smuskiewicz

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