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From the Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health, Tampa, Florida...

We send this News Brief in case you didn't see this weeks's MedLine and HealthDay releases.

Source: Olfson, M. & Marcus, S. C. (2009). National Patterns in Antidepressant Medication Treatment. Archives of General Psychiatry, 66:848-856.

News Release: The cost of treating mental disorders rose sharply between 1996 and 2006, from \$35 billion (in 2006 dollars) to almost \$58 billion.

At the same time, the report showed, the number of Americans who sought treatment for depression, bipolar disorder and other mental health woes almost doubled, from 19 million to 36 million.

The new statistics come on the heels of a study by Olfson & Marcus, released Monday, that found antidepressant use among U.S. residents almost doubled between a similar time frame, 1996 and 2005.

Olfson & Marcus reported that 10.12 percent of U.S. residents aged 6 and over, or 27 million people, were using antidepressants in 2005, compared to 5.84 percent, or 13.3 million people, in 1996.

The increase seemed to span virtually all demographic groups.

Spending on mental illness showed a faster rate of growth over the 10-year period analyzed than costs for heart disease, cancer, trauma-linked disorders, and asthma.

"This is a 20-year trend and it's very powerful," remarked Dr. Eric Caine, chair of the department of psychiatry and co-director of the Center for the Study of Prevention of Suicide at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

All Data Trends are funded by the Center for Mental Health Services, SAMHSA, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The current Data Trends is produced by the Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, University of South Florida, Tampa, <http://datatrends.fmhi.usf.edu/> The Tampa RTC produces two Data Trends products: 1) Summaries (ISSN# 1537-0399), which detail recent, published articles on systems of care for children with emotional and behavioral disabilities and their families, and; 2) News briefs (ISSN# 1537-0402), which highlight related items or events of interest to the field. You are welcome to forward this correspondence. Please send "Subscribe" or "Unsubscribe" requests for Data Trends (Tampa RTC only) to Catherine Newman, cnewman@fmhi.usf.edu

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