





Schizophrenia is a chronic brain disorder that affects about one percent of the population. When schizophrenia is active, symptoms can include delusions, hallucinations, disorganized speech, trouble with thinking and lack of motivation. However, with treatment, most symptoms of schizophrenia will greatly improve and the likelihood of a recurrence can be diminished.

While there is no cure for schizophrenia, research is leading to innovative and safer treatments. Experts also continue to unravel the causes of the disease by studying genetics, conducting behavioral research, and using advanced imaging to look at the brain's structure and function. These approaches hold the promise of new and more effective therapies.


The complexity of schizophrenia may help explain why there are misconceptions about the disease. Despite the origin of the word, from the Latin meaning "split mind," schizophrenia does not mean split personality or multiple-personality. Most people with schizophrenia are not any more dangerous or violent than the general population and may, in fact, be more vulnerable to being the victims of crimes. Most people with schizophrenia live with their family, in group homes or on their own.

## Expert Q&A: Schizophrenia

What are the first symptoms



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someone would notice if they had schizophrenia?

My friend with schizophrenia smokes marijuana and drinks a lot – is that related to the schizophrenia? ✓

Does everyone with schizophrenia need to take medication? Can therapy help someone with schizophrenia? ✓

What are “negative symptoms” of schizophrenia? ✓

Are there warning signs, ways to tell if someone with schizophrenia is going to relapse? ✓

## Resources on serious mental illness

### Fact Sheets:

- [Major Depressive Disorder](#)
- [Bipolar Disorder](#)
- [Schizophrenia](#)

### Myths and Facts:

- [Recovery](#)
- [Treatment 1](#)
- [Treatment 2](#)

Find answers to common questions about serious mental illness and listen to families share their stories.

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and body.**