

# Psychologists' services should be publicly funded: Report



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OTTAWA - Significant barriers hinder access to mental health services, according to a report released Wednesday by the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA).

The report, prepared by a group of health economists, calls the problem "a silent crisis."

"Despite the fact that one in five Canadians will experience a mental health problem in a given year, only one-third will receive the help they need," CPA president Dr. Jennifer Frain said. "We have psychological treatments that work, and experts trained to deliver them. Yet the services of psychologists are not funded by provincial health insurance plans, which make them inaccessible."

CPA said the cost of mental illness is estimated at \$51 billion annually and urged the government to improve access to mental health services.

The group said Canada has fallen behind other countries, including the U.K. and Australia, which cover the services of psychologists through public health care.

CPA also recommended the expansion of private insurance coverage for psychological services.

<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/sunnews/politics/archives/2013/05/20130502-174554.html>