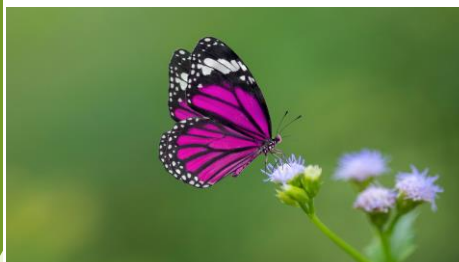


Eating Disorders Coalition Capitol Hill 2021 Virtual Advocacy Day

Thu, May 6, 2021

9:00 AM – 5:30 PM

*you must register if you would like to participate



- Rates of eating disorders in **Kentucky are significantly higher** than the national average.
- There are roughly 900,000 individuals with an eating disorder in Kentucky.
- 33% of high school students perceive themselves to be overweight.
- Eating disorder behaviors are just as common, if not more common, than many other risky behaviors (e.g., substance abuse) that are currently prioritized by the Commonwealth.
- Eating disorders affect everyone, not just women, including men and ethnic and sexual minorities.
- Only 1 in 5 individuals with an eating disorder will be diagnosed.
- Only 2 in 10 will seek treatment, with or without a diagnosis.

CO-OCCUR WITH OTHER MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

- 80-97% of individuals with eating disorders have another psychiatric disorder, primarily anxiety and mood disorders (Blinder et al., 2006).
- Individuals with eating disorders are at **much greater risk for attempting suicide, engaging in risky behaviors** (e.g., substance misuse), and having other comorbid mental health conditions (Pietsky et al., 2008).
- Individuals with eating disorders are at significant **higher risk for physical health complications**, such as cardiovascular symptoms, obesity, chronic pain, and infectious diseases (Johnson et al., 2002).
- There are many screening and early intervention protocols in place in Kentucky schools, primary care, and other community-based service settings to detect substance use and mental health problems, but **eating disorders behaviors are rarely, if ever, included** in those standardized assessments.

LACK OF RESOURCES AND UNDERFUNDED

- Inpatient and outpatient **treatment for eating disorders cost more** than treatment for other conditions, such as Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and many individuals in treatment are at a lower level of care than recommended, due to treatment costs and **lack of resources** (Streigel-Moore et al., 2000).
- The first and **only eating disorder specialty clinic in Kentucky** opened in Louisville in 2016. This clinic does not offer residential level of care. The closest eating disorder facilities that offer residential care are in Indiana, Ohio and Missouri.
- The National Institutes of Health allocates only **93 cents** towards research funding for every person diagnosed with an eating disorder.
- This ratio can be compared to \$88 for every person diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and \$81 for every individual with Schizophrenia (National Institutes of Health, 2011).

SUPPORT EATING DISORDER LEGISLATION!