

Eating Disorder Costs

Eating Disorders are Challenging and Costly to Treat:

- Response and remission rates to current treatment approaches for eating disorders is only approximately 50% ([Hughes et al., 2019](#)), with 50% of cases becoming severe and enduring ([Treasure et al., 2015](#)).
- Annually, eating disorder diagnoses and treatments are a costly endeavor for Canada. For context, in 2017/2018, Canada spent an average of \$24,017 per individual affected with an eating disorder, 1.79 times more than what was spent on schizophrenia ([Canadian Institute of Health Information, 2020](#)).
- These costs were specific only to hospital services. In the same year, the average length of stay in a hospital for someone with an eating disorder was 33.5 days.
- In Ontario, the average cost per patient (across all age groups, 5 – 65+ years old) was \$10,022 in 2012 ([de Oliveira et al., 2017](#)).
- In the same dataset, for pediatric cases only (5–19 years), the average cost per patient was \$19,857, nearly three times that of an adult 20–39 years old ([deOliveira et al., 2017](#)).
- These costs have only increased in recent years (e.g. \$21,128 in 2017–2018; [Canadian Institute of Health Information, 2020](#)).
- The current costs of eating disorder in Canada are calculated based on diagnosed cases of eating disorders; the indirect costs of sub-clinical and undiagnosed cases are crucial to consider as well.
- For example, costs related to hospital stays for reasons related to diagnosed co-morbidities, visits to the clinic that resulted in a missed diagnosis, or even lost workdays and decreased productivity in the workplace in those suffering in silence ([Trautmann et al., 2016](#)).