

Older veterans are less likely than younger veterans to be diagnosed and treated for psychiatric disorders by their primary care providers

Older primary care veterans are less likely to receive a psychiatric diagnosis than younger veterans, even when they have “highly positive” screening questionnaires. They are also less likely to receive treatment even when a psychiatric diagnosis is made during a visit. Although, a psychiatric screening and diagnostic tool increases diagnosis and treatment, it does not alter age-related disparities. *Valenstein M, Kales H, Mellow A, Dalack G, Figueroa S, Barry K, Blow F. Psychiatric diagnosis and intervention in older and younger patients in a primary care clinic: Effect of a Screening and Diagnostic Instrument. Journal of the American Geriatrics Society. 1998; 46: 1499-1505. Contact: Marcia Valenstein, MD, (734)-930-5141, email at marciav@umich.edu.*