Bipolar disorder (BPD) is a common illness characterised by recurrent episodes of mania/hypomania and major depression. Two types of BPD are commonly recognised in clinical practice: bipolar I and bipolar II disorder. The prevalence of BPD in the UK has been estimated to be 0.6% [2], which equates to approximately 297,000 people suffering from BPD in the UK annually. Moreover, BPD is often associated with other mental disorders, particularly alcoholism and substance abuse [3]. Against this background we estimated the annual costs of healthcare, those borne by other healthcare service providers, and the criminal justice system attributable specifically to BPD.

The total annual non-healthcare cost attributable to managing BPD was estimated to be £85.9 million and the total annual indirect cost attributable to BPD was estimated to be £1,770 million (Table II). The annual non-healthcare cost attributable to BPD is sensitive to changes in the annual number of non-NHS day care facilities, while the annual indirect cost is sensitive to changes in the annual number of non-NHS day care facilities. However, it is not sensitive to changes in the number of residential places and the assumptions pertaining to the use of the criminal justice system by BPD sufferers. Therefore, the total annual societal cost of managing 297,000 people with BPD was estimated to be £2,155 million (Figure 1).

## Results

### The total annual societal cost of managing 297,000 people with BPD was estimated to be £2,155 million (Figure 3).

Bipolar I and II disorder

#### Non-healthcare Resource Use and Indirect Costs

The annual non-healthcare cost attributable to managing BPD was estimated to be £85.9 million and the total annual indirect cost attributable to BPD was estimated to be £1,770 million (Table II). The annual non-healthcare cost attributable to BPD is sensitive to changes in the annual number of non-NHS day care facilities, while the annual indirect cost is sensitive to changes in the annual number of non-NHS day care facilities. However, it is not sensitive to changes in the number of residential places and the assumptions pertaining to the use of the criminal justice system by BPD sufferers. Therefore, the total annual societal cost of managing 297,000 people with BPD was estimated to be £2,155 million (Figure 1).

### Sensitivity Analyses

We were unable to find any evidence that the incidence of either imprisonment or people on remand was higher among those with BPD than the general population. Therefore, the analysis assumed that costs incurred by the criminal justice system attributable specifically to BPD is zero.

We were unable to find any evidence that there was a higher unemployment rate among carers than the general population. Therefore, the analysis assumed that indirect costs specifically attributable to carers of BPD sufferer is zero.

### References


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