

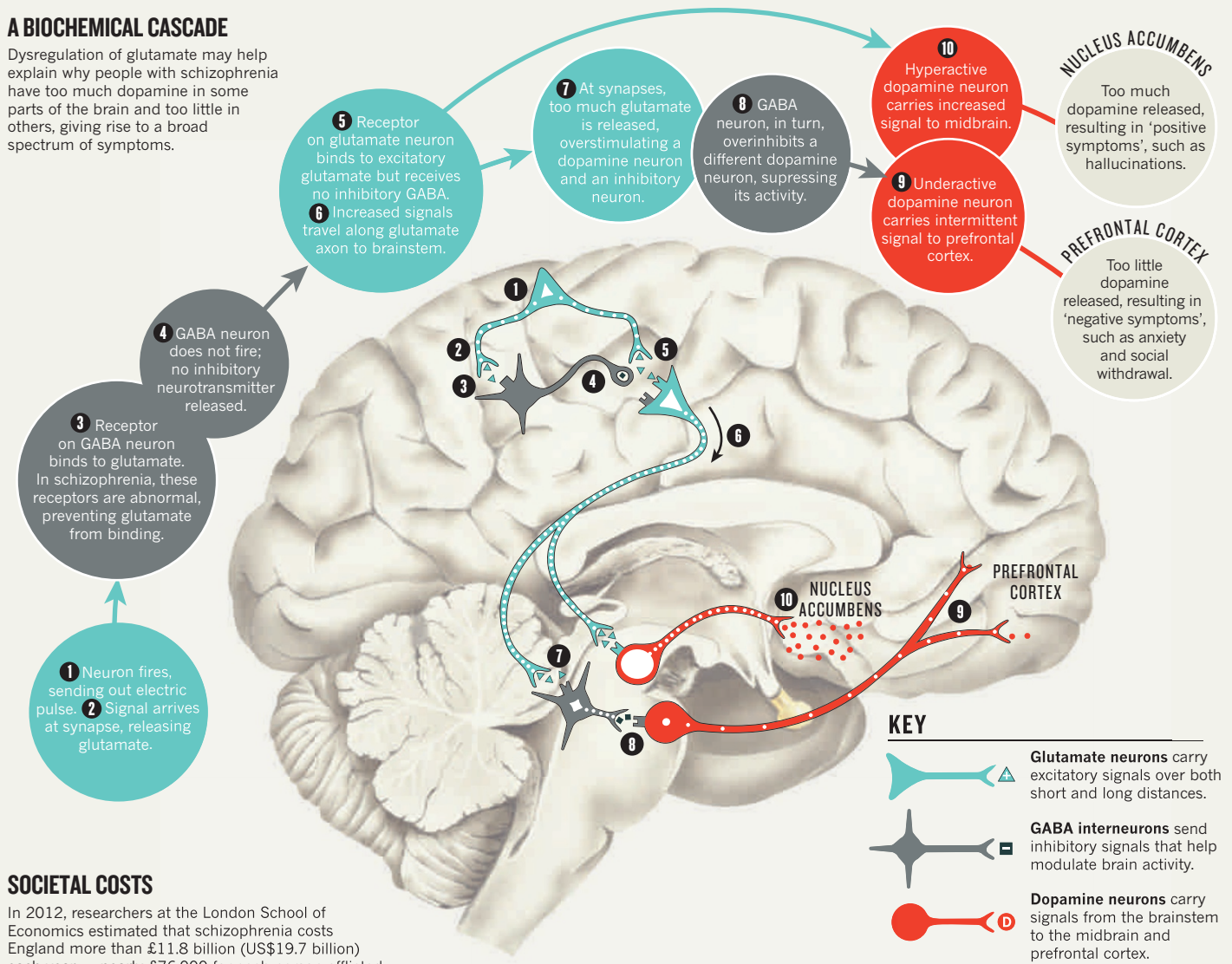
SEARCHING FOR SCHIZOPHRENIA'S ROOTS

Sixty years after the first schizophrenia drug hit the market, researchers are still struggling to understand and treat the disorder. By **Emily Elert**.

1%
of adults have schizophrenia.

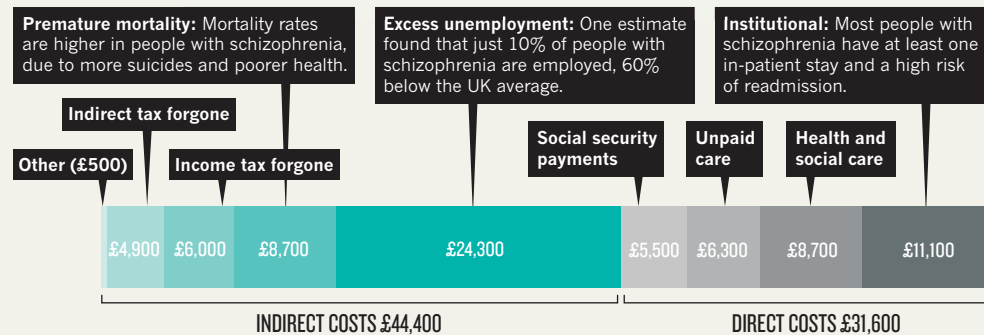
A BIOCHEMICAL CASCADE

Dysregulation of glutamate may help explain why people with schizophrenia have too much dopamine in some parts of the brain and too little in others, giving rise to a broad spectrum of symptoms.



SOCIETAL COSTS

In 2012, researchers at the London School of Economics estimated that schizophrenia costs England more than £11.8 billion (US\$19.7 billion) each year — nearly £76,000 for each person afflicted.



50%
of people with schizophrenia are not receiving proper treatment.

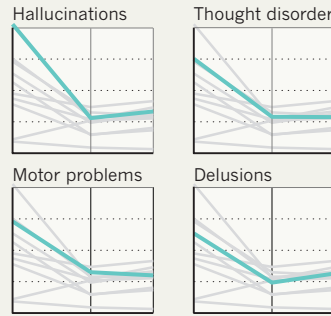
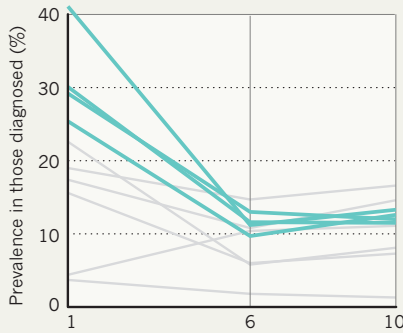
SOURCE: LSE EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS IN SCHIZOPHRENIA: THE ECONOMIC CASE

THE CHANGING FACE OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

The symptoms of schizophrenia vary from person to person, but follow a characteristic pattern over the course of the disease.

POSITIVE SYMPTOMS

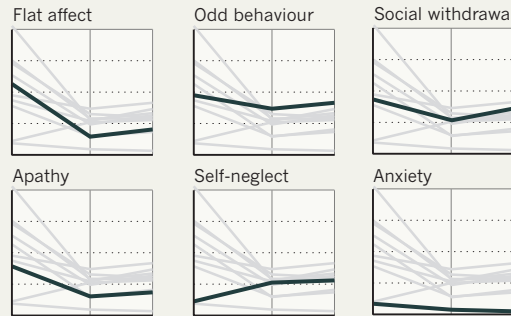
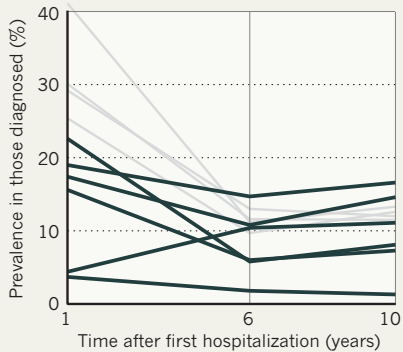
The onset of schizophrenia is manifested by symptoms associated with psychosis. These often respond well to antipsychotic drugs.



5.6%
is the suicide rate for people with schizophrenia.

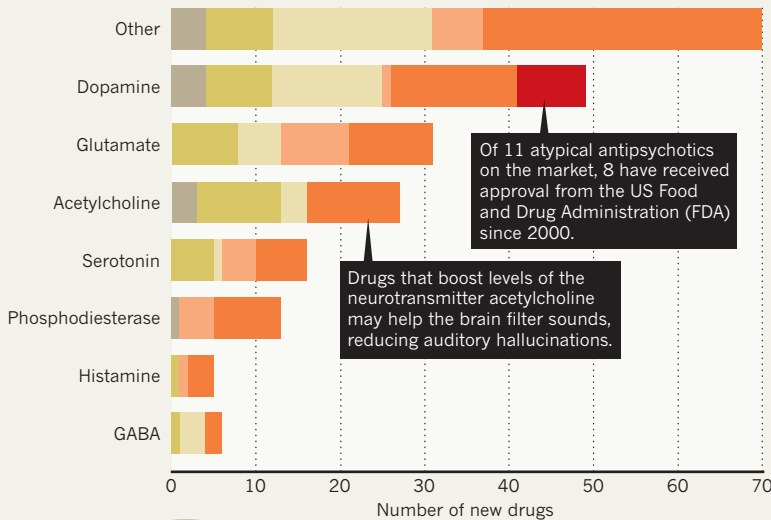
NEGATIVE SYMPTOMS

These traits often linger or worsen, accompanied by impairments to cognitive processes, such as working memory.



15 YEARS OF DRUG DEVELOPMENT

The most widely used schizophrenia drugs, atypical antipsychotics, are effective in treating positive symptoms. But researchers are finding new neural targets to address negative and cognitive symptoms.

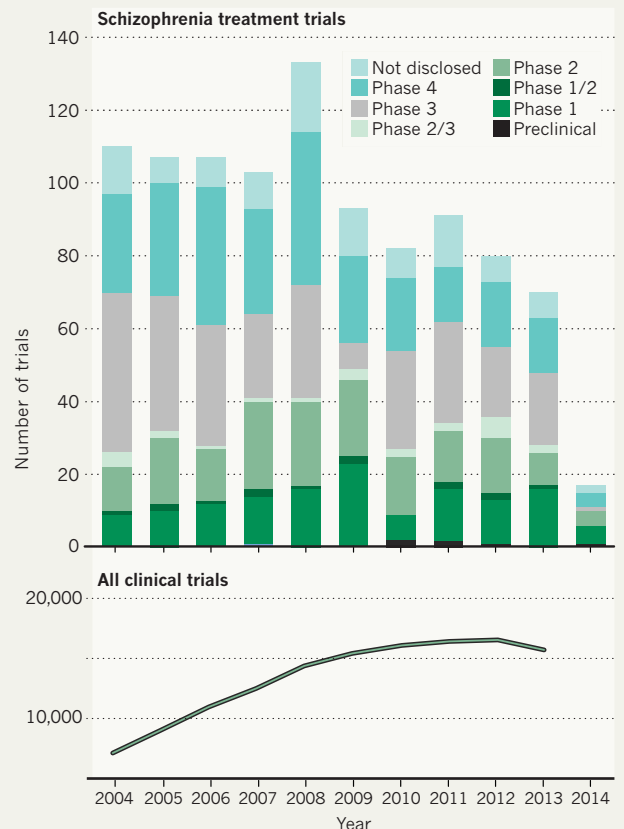


219 drugs have been tested for the treatment of schizophrenia since 1999.

8 have received FDA approval.

SCHIZOPHRENIA SLOWDOWN

For the past ten years, clinical trials of schizophrenia treatments have been on a downward trajectory, even though clinical trials in general have been rising.



SOURCE: W. EATON ET AL. ARCH. GEN. PSYCHIATRY 52, 127-134 (1995)

SOURCE: HUGO GEERTS, IN SILICO BIOSCIENCES

SOURCE: CLINICALTRIALS.GOV