

Steve Lurie's letter to the Globe & Mail, published on January 26/10, in response to Erin Anderssen's article "Mind and Punishment", published on January 23/10

Erin Anderssen's article raises troubling questions about access to mental health services in Ontario and Canada.

We know that while 20% of people will experience a diagnosable mental illness each year, less than one in three are able to access mental health services. The situation is worse for youth, where less than one in five get the care they need. This is particularly concerning since there is evidence that early intervention literally saves lives while treatment delays can have the opposite effect.

While the Mental Health Commission has published an ambitious set of goals to improve access, recovery and wellbeing, mental health services are being cut across the country, or not being funded to meet population needs.

We would never tolerate one in three people getting treatment for cancer. Why is it acceptable for mental illness?