

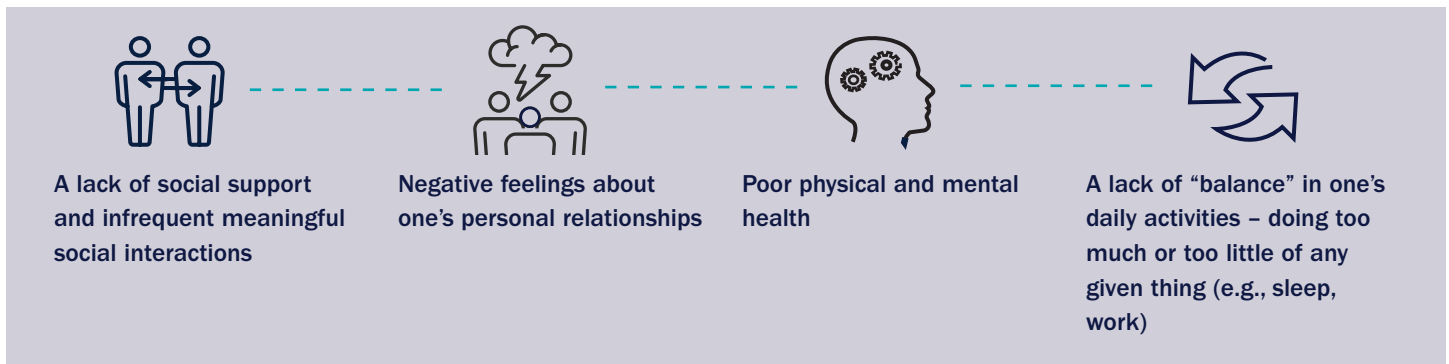
The Loneliness Epidemic



Benefits of Joint Commission Behavioral Health Care and Human Services Accreditation

More and more, payers are taking notice of how this country's loneliness epidemic is leading to higher costs for their health plans. This is an epidemic that started before the coronavirus pandemic and not surprisingly, has continued to get worse.

The 2020 Loneliness Index from Cigna found three in five adults experience loneliness and social isolation, pushing the social determinant of health and mental health challenge to its highest level on record. According to Cigna, some of the causes include:



This topic is addressed throughout Joint Commission Behavioral Health Care and Human Services accreditation standards. Accredited organizations, through the survey process, are required to demonstrate how they address and support the individuals they serve. These standards highlight the importance of engagement, such as community support, family support and support groups, as well as other aspects of care such as:

- Client goals
- Social skills
- Social functioning
- Environment of care®
- Recovery services for individuals and families



To learn more about how Joint Commission Behavioral Health Care and Human Services accreditation can be a benefit to your health plan and its members, please contact Kimberly Clawson, Senior Associate Director, Payor Relations at kclawson@jointcommission.org.