The World Health Organization

World Mental Health Survey Initiative

A presentation by Jordi Alonso
The WMH Survey Initiative

Co-directors:
- Bedirhan Üstün, WHO, Assessment, Classification, and Epidemiology (ACE) Group
- Ronald Kessler, Harvard Medical School, Dpt. Health Policy

The main objective of WMH:
- Coordinated high-quality epidemiological surveys on mental health worldwide
- 25 countries
- Nearly 200,000 respondents
WMH Coordination Centres

- WMH Data Collection Coordination Centre:
  University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
  Directors: Beth-Ellen Pennell and Steve Heeringa

- WMH Data Analysis Coordination Centre:
  Harvard University School of Medicine, Boston, MA
  Director: Ronald C. Kessler
Surveys in the field

- Romania
- Peru
- Northern Ireland
- Iraq
- India
- Costa Rica
- Bulgaria
- Brazil
## WHO Region: Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
Coordinator: Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola, MD, PhD  
Centre for Reducing Health Disparities  
California State University, Davis

## WHO Region: African Regional Office (AFRO)
Coordinator: Oye Gureje, MD, PhD  
University College Hospital, Ibadan Nigeria

## WHO Region: Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO)
Coordinator: Elie Karam, MD  
Institute for Development, Research, Advocacy and Applied Care (IDRAAC), Beirut

## WHO Region: European Regional Office (EURO)
Coordinator: Jordi Alonso, MD, PhD  
Institute of Municipal d'Investigació Médica (IMIM), Spain

## WHO Region: Southeast Asia Regional Office (SEARO)
Coordinator: All India Institute of Medical Sciences  
World Health Organization

## WHO Region: Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO)
Coordinator: Sing Lee, MB  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
12-month (12-mo) prevalence of WMH-CIDI/DSM-IV mood disorders

Prevalence

- United States
- Ukraine
- France
- New Zealand
- Netherlands
- Columbia
- Lebanon
- Israel
- Belgium
- South Africa
- Spain
- Mexico
- Italy
- Germany
- Japan
- PRC Beijing
- PRC Shanghai
- Nigeria
Prevalence of 12-month WMH-CIDI/DSM-IV disorders by severity across countries
Association of 12-month WMH-CIDI/DSM-IV disorder severity with healthcare treatment

Severe

Spain
France
New Zealand
Belgium
Israel
United States
Netherlands
Germany
South Africa
Colombia
Mexico
Ukraine
Lebanon

Percent in Treatment

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70%
How WMH working groups collaborate

• Decide on a series of core papers

• Collaborate with the Harvard data analysts to design analysis plans

• Collaborate in the preparation of template papers (one cross-national and then for each participating country)

• Produce the extensive literature reviews prepared

• Form a writing committee
WMH Publications 2006

Already published over 100 articles relating to the ongoing studies!

- The Journal of the American Medical Association
- Health Affairs
- Archives of General Psychiatry
- British Journal of Psychiatry
- British Medical
- Bulletin of the World Health Organization
- Psychiatric Research
- Acta Psychiatrca Scandinavica
- Revue Medicale Liège
- Louvain Medicale
- Acta Pschitrica Belgica
- Salud Mental
- Salud Publica Mexico
- Tijdschrift voor Geneeskunde
- International Journal of Methods in Psychiatric Research
- Revista Colombiana de Psiquiatria
- Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences
Country reports

• To create a template to be used by members of the Consortium who are required/want/are committed to develop a report

Goals

• To strengthen the evidence-based decision making in the mental health field at the national and sub-national levels
• To present evidence-based information as a force driving policy and services
• To develop a national action plan on mental illness and mental health
Format and Audience

- Full report
- Executive summary report
- Summaries and highlights (brief sheets) for specific audiences:
  - Policy-makers
  - General public
  - Experts and health professionals
Suggested Content

• Methodology
• Prevalence and selected correlates of mental disorders
• Disabilities associated with mental disorders
• Burden associated with mental disorders
• The use of health services by people with mental disorders
• Relationship of mental disorders and physical illness
• Comparisons of prevalence rates and service use with other countries
• Implications for policy and services
• Implications for future research
• Conclusions and recommendations
Recommendations


• Partner and leverage with WHO and regional offices to team up in the development of national mental health policies and services and their implementation:
  – Technical assistance by WHO:
    • Development of a national mental health plan
    • Monitoring and evaluation of mental health reform
    • Workforce development
To find out more information visit the website at: www.hcp.med.harvard.edu/wmh

This will give you access to a list of participating countries, the latest publications, and other information.