

Translating Scientific Evidence Into Global Health Policy
Making Mental Health Count for
Individuals and Populations Health

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Introduction

- **Health, a complete state of physical, mental, & social well-being**
- **Not just the absence of disease &/or infirmity**
- **Multifactorial determinants**
- **Affecting health, illness, disability**
- **Consequences for individuals' & populations' health**
- **Significant economic & development consequences**

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Multifactorial Determinants

- **Biological, genetic, psychological**
- **Nutrition, fitness**
- **Economic, cultural, environmental**
- **Primary, secondary, & tertiary prevention**
- **Co-morbidity, fragmentation, need for integration**
- **Access, quality, sustainability**

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Epidemiology, Burden of Disease & Disability

- **500,000,000 people suffer from mental disorders**
- **Nearly 1,000,000 commit suicide every year**
- **14% of the global burden of disease**
- **30-45% of the global burden of disability**
- **\$ Trillions lost in disability, productivity, yearly**

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UN General Assembly Agenda on NCDs

- **UN General Assembly, NYC, September 2011**
- **NCDs 1st time in the history of the UN Agenda**
- **Mental disorders excluded**
- **Excluded also from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**
- **No health without mental health**

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Translating Scientific Evidence

- **14% of the global burden of disease**
- **30-45% of the global burden of disability**
- **NCDs co-morbidity**
- **Cardiovascular disorders, diabetes, depression**
- **Health systems' fragmentation**
- **Health systems' integration**
- **Access, equity, & non-discrimination**
- **Domenici-Wellstone Parity Law**
- **Health, economic, & quality of life consequences**

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Global Health Policy & Advocacy at WHO

- **Letters to the WHO Executive Committee (EC)**
- **D. Satcher, M.D., E. Sorel, M.D., P. Ruiz, M.D.**
- **J. A. Lieberman, M.D.**
- **P. A. Newton, M.D.**
- **WHO-EC Agenda January 2012**
- **WHO Assembly May 2012**
- **OECD Making Mental Health Count 2010-2013**
- **WHO NCDs & Mental Health Departments in all regions**
- **WHO Global Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020**

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Health Systems' Integration

- **Primary care, mental health, public health**
- **Effective response to high levels of co-morbidity**
- **Enhancing quality, access, outcomes**
- **Diminishing costs & discrimination**
- **Systemic integration of brain, body, & mind**
- **Catalytic role of communication information technology**
- **The Brain Initiative**

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Global Mental Health Action Plan, 2013-2020

- **WHO Assembly May 2012**
- **Action plan review 2012 – 2013**
- **Action plan implementation 2013 – 2020**
- **Strengthen effective leadership & governance**
- **Provide comprehensive, integrated, & responsive community-based care**
- **Implement promotion & prevention strategies for mental health**
- **Strengthen information systems, evidence, & research**

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Economic & Health Consequences

- **Absenteeism, presenteeism, & unemployment**
- **\$16 trillion loss in earnings & productivity**
- **30-45% burden of disability**
- **14% of the global burden of disease**
- **Premature deaths by 20 years**
- **50% of illnesses present by age 14**
- **75% of illnesses present by age 24**
- **OECD Making Mental Health Count**
- **Educating policymakers regionally & globally**

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Reflections & Conclusions

- **Better measurement of mental health & mental health systems' performance**
- **Scaling up evidence-based treatments**
- **Care receivers, care givers, payers, and policy makers**
- **Shared responsibility and enhanced health literacy**
- **Primary care, public health, & mental health – integration**
- **Incentives for innovation, integration, & superior outcomes**
- **Education, training, services, research, policy**
- **Include MH in the updated MDG and NCDs plans**

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- “The U.N.’s Unfortunate Exclusion,” E. Sorel & D. Satcher, *Psychiatric News*, October 7, 2011, page 8
- *OECD (2014), Making Mental Health Count: The Social and Economic Costs of Neglecting Mental health Care*, OECD Health Policy Studies, OECD Publishing, doi: 10.1787/978964208445-en
- *The WHO Global Mental Health Action Plan*, WHO: Geneva (2013)
- *21st Century Global Mental Health*, E. Sorel, editor, Jones & Bartlett Learning: Burlington, MA (2013)