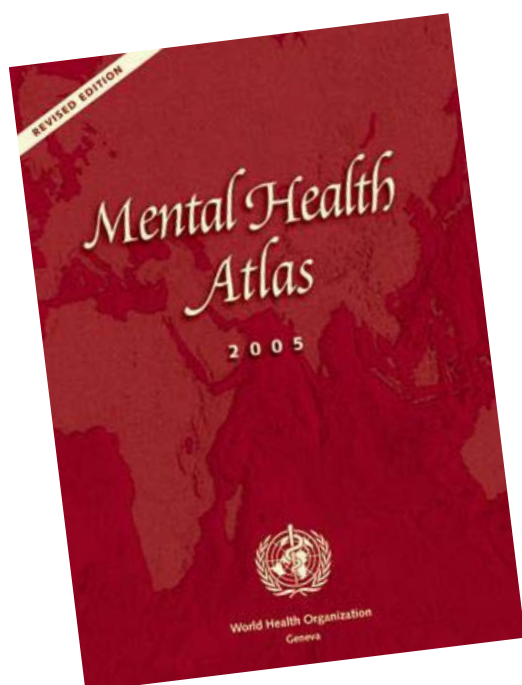

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World Health Organization



Mental Health Atlas-2005 Revised Edition



World Health Organization,
2005, 540 pages [English]
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Mental Health Atlas-2005 provides essential information on mental health for all 192 Member States of WHO. The information for each of these countries includes: General information, epidemiology, mental health policy, substance abuse policy, national mental health programme, national therapeutic drug policy/essential list of drugs, mental health legislation, mental health financing, mental health facilities, psychiatric beds and professionals, non-governmental organizations, information gathering system, programmes for special population, and other relevant information.

This information has been collected from the countries and has been supplemented by a search of relevant literature and reports of WHO and other international and national organizations. *Mental Health Atlas-2005* is perhaps the most comprehensive reference source for global mental health information.

Mental Health Atlas-2005 is the revised version of the first set of publications from the Project ATLAS titled, *Atlas: Mental Health Resources in the World, 2001* and *Atlas: Country Profiles on Mental Health Resources in the World, 2001*. All information has been revised and updated and additional information has been provided where none was available earlier. One significant addition is the inclusion of information on epidemiology of mental disorders for all low and middle income countries.

Mental Health Atlas-2005 is likely to be useful to public health planners, mental health professionals, mental health service researchers, non-governmental organizations, international organizations and students.

Facts and figures

Over 40% of countries have no mental health policy.

Half of all countries around the world have less than one psychiatrist and psychiatric nurse per 100,000 population.

Some 37% of countries worldwide do not have community care facilities

40% of countries worldwide do not provide treatment for severe mental disorders at primary care level.

Worldwide, 20% of countries do not have some of the basic psychotropic medicines in primary care settings.

Mental Health Atlas-2005 shows that mental health resources within most countries remain inadequate despite modest improvements since 2001.

Publications

WHO, **WHO Press**, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland
Tel +41 22 791 24 76 - Fax +41 22 791 48 57 - Email: publications@who.int
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Views on Mental Health Atlas - 2005

"The WHO production of the ATLAS on Mental Health is a monumental and unprecedented work. For the first time, we feel that we live in a global village regarding mental health."

Professor Ahmed Okasha, President, World Psychiatric Association

"To provide information, counsel and assistance in the field of health" is one of the constitutional functions of the World Health Organization: the WHO Mental Health Atlas is a direct response to this mandate and a significant contribution to the development of health programmes worldwide. It provides information that is needed for mental health programmes and makes it possible to offer counsel and assistance based on evidence."

Professor Norman Sartorius, Former Director, Division of Mental Health, WHO, Geneva

"An indispensable tool for mental health professionals at Ministries of Health, allowing them to compare indicators among different countries and making clear the aspects that requires further development."

Dr Alberto Minoletti, Ministry of Health, Chile

"Atlas project is a great advancement in that it has been successful in describing the complex aspects of organisation of mental health services in universal parameters. If used creatively Atlas could be a great resource in assessing developments in mental health services."

Dr Nalaka Mendis, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

"The revised Atlas promises to improve upon what was already a magnificent resource for policy makers and mental health advocates by addressing some of the limitations of the first edition, notably emphasizing greater reliability of country data and providing an invaluable review of the epidemiological data on mental disorders for each country."

Dr Vikram Patel, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom

"Information is power: it lights up the dark and winding corridors of the decision-making process. Mental health planners, administrators and other stakeholders frequently ask: how is my country doing in mental health. What do we need to improve? No better way to obtain an authoritative answer than by examining Atlas 2005."

Dr Itzhak Levav, Ministry of Health, Israel

"The Atlas volumes have contributed significantly to reduce the gap between "disease information" and "resource information" in the mental health field, representing a key reference for researchers, policy makers, and advocates for more and better distributed resources worldwide."

Professor Mario Maj, Secretary for Publications, World Psychiatric Association

"The Atlas, in its various editions, has proved an invaluable tool to its users in developing countries where it has served to bridge the traditional information gap that still exists in those countries. Efforts to persuade policy makers to increase attention given to mental health service provision are considerably aided when information about shortage of resources, as contained in the Atlas, can be readily provided."

Professor Oye Gureje, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

"This world atlas is a 'must' for government health ministers, mental health professionals and leaders of psychiatric associations. Read – and then take action."

Professor John Cox, Secretary General, World Psychiatric Association

"The WHO's Mental Health Atlas is the most comprehensive and reliable guide to national mental health treatment systems in the world. An invaluable tool for mental health policy analysts and researchers, the Atlas has substantially expanded the quality of comparative cross-national system analysis in this increasingly important sector of the health care arena."

Professor Ronald Kessler, Harvard Medical School, USA

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