

Resolution on Global Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders

An official statement from the Global Alliance on Behavioral Health and Social Justice (formerly the American Orthopsychiatric Association)

As a behavioral health organization that is global in scope and that embeds its work in principles of human rights and social justice, we are committed to raising awareness and seeking solutions regarding the crisis in mental health and substance use disorders.

Indeed, the numbers are staggering:

- 1 in 4 people at some point in their lives will be affected by mental or neurological disorders.
- About 450 million people are now struggling with their mental health and/or addictions.
- Mental health disorders are among the world's leading causes of disability and ill-health.
- The treatment gap between those who need care and those who actually receive it is estimated at 76–85% for low- and middle-income countries and 35–50% for high-income countries.



To address these challenges and in keeping with our values and our approach, we advocate for a focus on prevention and greater investment in treating individuals struggling with mental health and substance use concerns. We support prevention efforts that include tackling factors that make individuals vulnerable (e.g., poverty; exclusion; violence) and implementing initiatives and policies that improve human rights protections. We further support treatment efforts that recognize that all people should be treated with dignity, enable individuals to function in the least restrictive environment possible, is culturally appropriate, easily accessible, and involves consumers, families, and communities.

Additional Resources

Lancet Series on Global Mental Health 2011.

www.thelancet.com/series/global-mental-health-2011

World Federation for Mental Health. www.wfmh.global

Movement for Global Mental Health.

www.globalmentalhealth.org

WHO Mental Health Gap Action Programme.

www.who.int/mental_health/mhgap/en/

Mental Health Atlas 2014.

www.who.int/mental_health/evidence/atlas/mental_health_atlas_2014/en/

Grand Challenges in Global Mental Health.

bit.ly/2q2qPco and bit.ly/2qIMjam

Mental Health Innovation Network.

www.mhinnovation.net

Canadian Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

www.camh.ca

Relevant Articles in the *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*

Kosher, H., & Ben-Arieh, A. (2016). What Children Think About Their Rights and Their Well-Being: A Cross-National Comparison.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/ort0000222>

Kronich, R., Rousseau, C., & Cleveland, J. (2015). Asylum-seeking children's experiences of detention in Canada: A qualitative study.

doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/ort0000061>

Huynh, H. V. (2014). New directions in orphan and vulnerable children policy and research: A focus on supporting "suitable" institutions when placement is "necessary" for a child.

doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/h0099847>

McLeigh, J. D., & Sianko, N. (2010). What should be done to promote mental health around the world?

doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1939-0025.2010.01074.x>

How You Can Help

- Join our Global Mental Health and Addiction Task Force. Learn more at www.bhjustice.org/global-mental-health.
- Raise awareness! Show that you are #IntoMentalHealth on social media and help #stopthestigma.
- Donate to an organization that advocates for or provides mental health and addiction services.
- Join an international coalition focused on mental health, such as the Movement for Global Mental Health.