

Setting Priorities for Mental Health Research in Brazil

Gregório et al. (2012)

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For which topic were research priorities identified?

mental health

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

South America - Brazil

Why was it conducted at all?

Mental disorders account for 14% of the global burden. By 2020, it is predicted that depression will be the second leading cause of disease burden. In addition, substance abuse disorders contribute to more than 4% of the total burden. In Brazil, in 2003, neuropsychiatric disorders accounted for 18% of Disability Adjusted Lost Years (DALYs) and 35% of the Years Lost due to Disability (YLDs). The high burden of neuropsychiatric disorders in low and middle income countries (LAMIC) is contrasted with low investments in mental health: most of the LAMIC spend less than 1% of the total health budget on mental health. The high morbidity and low investments are important factors in explaining why a minority of individuals with mental and substance disorders (MSDs) ever receive treatment. In addition, MSDs comprise the leading cause of disability in young people in every region of the world. Increasingly, there is a need to set priorities in health research by allocating investments in a fair and legitimate way on the basis of sound and transparent methodologies.

What was the objective?

to review the agenda for mental health research priorities

What was the outcome?

a ranking list of 10 research topics

How long did the research prioritization take?

No information provided.

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

CHNRI approach

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: recruiting experts. Step 2: generating list of research questions: experts were asked to list relevant mental health research questions on their own, to consult the National Agenda for Health Research Priorities, or to consult the LAMIC mental health research priorities list reported by the Lancet expert group, 110 questions in 5 areas submitted. Step 3: participants were asked to select the most relevant 35 questions and score them along five criteria

Which stakeholders took part?

28 participants (22 researchers, 5 policymakers, and the coordinator) representing all mental health fields.

How were stakeholders recruited?

A group of experts from different mental health domains were recruited. Experts included infant and child psychiatrists, geriatric psychiatrists, and specialists in drug addiction and primary care.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.