Argentina WHO Special Initiative for Mental Health

Situational Assessment

Overview

Strengths

- Political support for mental health, as evidenced by release of 2022 strategy and existing national plan 2013-2018, currently under review
- High number of psychologists and other human resources for mental health
- Community and provincial innovations in care

Challenges

- Federalist structure hard to track multiple systems
- Poor integration of services
- Piecemeal system with different levels of accessibility and types of service by province

Context



- Population of 45-47 million, largely concentrated in urban areas (92%)
- 99% literacy, 95% of households have improved sanitation, 99% have clean water, and 100% have electricity
- Life expectancy: 77 years (80 females, 73 males), infant mortality rate: 8 per 1,000 live births, maternal mortality ratio 39 per 100,000 live births
- Leading causes of death are cardiovascular diseases (29%) and neoplasms (24%)
- Nearly 1 in 2 women report experience of intimate partner violence
- Low HIV prevalence (0.4%)
- Highly segmented health system with a wide range of stakeholders

Policies and Plans

Public spending on mental health (\$/capita): n/s

Policy

Name: Federal Strategy for a Comprehensive Approach to

Mental Health

Years: 2022

Progress: Early stages; launched in April 2022

Plan

Name: National Mental Health Plan

Years: 2013-2018

Progress: Implementation in progress; plan in the process of being

updated.

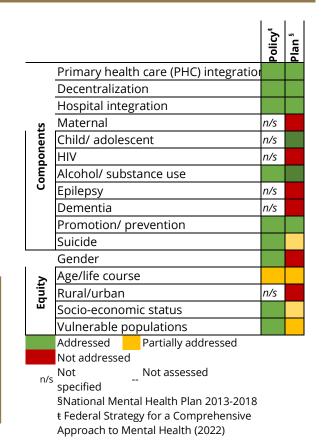
Legislation

The National Law on the Right to Mental Health Protection, No. 26.657, 2010

Key Informant:

Mental health was never prioritized by governments. The [mental health] law put it at the top of the agenda.

-MH Advocate







Prevalence and Coverage

		Prevalence	Total**	Gender ratio	Treatment coverage
	Major depressive disorder	2.04%	862,748	2.5% females 1.5% males	
	Bipolar disorder	1.17%	494,127	1.2% females 1.1% males	
	Schizophrenia	0.36%	151,086	0.3% females 0.4% males	
**	Alcohol use disorders	2.40%	1,016,016	1.3% females 3.6% males	
	Drug use disorders	0.76%	320,645	0.5% females 1.0% males	
	Epilepsy	0.28%	120,222	0.3% females 0.3% males	
	Suicide deaths	11.2*	5,029	0.6% females 2.2% males	

^{*}rate per 100k; **GBD 2019 ± Ministry of Internal report

Services

Human resources			
		#	Rate per 100,000
ist	Doctor*	182,189	405
neral	Doctor* Nurse* (*REFEP 2019) Pharmacist	192,829	429
Ge	Pharmacist	n/s	
st	Neurologist	n/s	
	Psychiatrist	6,500	15
ciali	Psychologist	128,221	286
Spe	Psychiatrist Psychologist Psychiatric nurse	n/s	
	MH social worker	n/s	

Health care facilities

		Total	Facilities/
		Facilities	100,000
Ħ	Mental hospital	162	26.0
Inpatient	General hospital		
ba	psychiatric unit		
므	Forensic Hospital		
=	Hospital mental		
<u>ie</u> .	health		
Outpatient	Community-based/		
풀	non-hospital		
0	mental health		
Source: Mental Health Atlas Argentina 2020			

Key Informant: Despite the fragmentation... we see ever growing awareness of the need to integrate mental health into the larger health system... Everything is developing, sometimes with challenges, with twists and turns, we move forward. -MH Policy maker

MH training	140 mental health professionals trained in mhGAP and 717 health care professionals trained as mhGAP trainers (2018-2019). Additional training began in August 2022. 12 new interdisciplinary mental health residencies and the creation of the Diploma in Community MH
PHC integration	Integration described in the MH Plan 2013-2018
Psychosocial interventions	Problem-solving therapy, behavioral activation, supportive counseling, cognitive behavioral therapy, interpersonal therapy, alcohol interventions, positive psychotherapy, and motivational enhancement therapy are available in some health centers and hospitals
Medication summary	Argentina has a list of essential medications (2019) for its Remediar program which offers free medication to uninsured people through primary care services. Remediar includes antiepileptic and antiparkinsonian medications and, in 2022, 6 psychotropic medicines were incorporated into the list as well.
MH promotion	Proyecto Suma campaign "we are all at risk", UNICEF's Hablemos de todo, activities for the national day for suicide prevention; annual World Mental Health Day activities through the Directorate of Mental Health

Community and Other Sectors Community Housing support for people with mental health conditions is planned in the new Strategy Education Emphasis on social inclusion and mainstreaming for children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral problems or mild developmental disability. Screening for suicidal ideation in adolescents under development Social welfare 1000 Days law provides health services and social protection for women and children.

Monitoring and Evaluation

National health information system: Yes. A national health surveillance system (SNVS) which collects data for various surveillance strategies. Since 2018, SNVS also includes clinic-level data electronically. *Mental health indicators in HMIS*: Yes. Data include the number of people hospitalized for mental health reasons, sociodemographic information, conditions of hospitalization, and their judicial, social and family situation.



