

WHO World Mental Health Surveys International College Student (WMH-ICS) Initiative.

The WHO World Mental Health International College Student (WMH-ICS) Initiative is an international collaboration in the area of student mental health in higher education.

The initiative conducts needs assessment surveys, designed to generate accurate data on mental, substance, and behavioral disorders among students, to be used by colleges and universities in optimizing their mental health services. Some colleges in the initiative are doing experiments with interventions but these are currently conducted separately by members and are not centrally coordinated.

On joining the consortium, members have access to the WMH-ICS survey instrument, which is a standardized instrument used across international sites, with minor cultural adaptations allowed. The surveys use validated screening measures to generate estimates of the presence of a wide range of mental disorders thought to be common among college students e.g. Major Depressive Episode, Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Panic Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, adult ADHD, substance abuse and dependence, and suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

Members will have access to the scoring algorithms and will receive a dataset with frequency distribution for diagnoses for their own national reporting. The use of a standardized survey allows pooling of data to create a cross-national dataset and publication of papers based on this. This requires that the facilitator of each country (see below) signs a data-use agreement with Harvard Medical School, which is the data coordinating center.

This data use agreement stipulates each university in the consortium will agree to share their data with the WMH-ICS Data Coordination Center (DCC) at Harvard Medical School.

Please review the following requirements carefully and if you qualify, contact us at ronkadm@hcp.med.harvard.edu for more information on this process. If you are located in a country where we have an existing survey – visit [our website](#) for the current locations – we will put you in contact with the facilitator for your country. Otherwise, we will discuss steps to establish a consortium in your country.

In order to become a member of this consortium, applicants must meet the following requirements:

Survey Platform:

The WMH-ICS survey is programmed in Qualtrics and applicants must have or be willing to purchase a Qualtrics license.

Organization:

- Harvard Medical School is the DCC.
- WMH-ICS is organized by country consortia, consisting of researchers from one or more universities, grouped in one consortium per country.
- There will be one facilitator for each country consortium who will lead the project within that country. The facilitator will undertake to recruit partner universities and coordinate these within that country consortium.
- Executive committee approval will be required for both the country consortium and the facilitator.
- We require at least a 3-year commitment with multiple cohorts.
- Ideally, each consortium will have a common IRB protocol for their country and the survey used will be distributed and managed from the lead institution, so that data is centrally located. This would mean that only the facilitator's university would have to have the Qualtrics license and costs can be shared among partner universities.
- This facilitator will collect all the data from the members of the consortium and will pre-process it before sending to the DCC at Harvard Medical School. That person will be the only contact person with the WMH-ICS DCC.

Data-use agreement:

- The facilitator will be responsible for their country consortium’s Data Use Agreement (DUA) with Harvard. This DUA stipulates each university in the consortium will agree to share their data with the DCC at Harvard Medical School. The data will be pooled and sent to Harvard from the lead institution.
- The facilitator of the country consortium is responsible for setting up separate internal agreements with each of the consortium’s participating universities.
- Each country consortium will receive back a cleaned, imputed dataset with their country’s data and algorithms along with frequency distributions of diagnoses, suicidality and demographic data of the respondents. Following this, we will build a cross-national file that may be shared with those willing to do approved analyses.
- Once the cross-national analytic file has been built and deidentified we will share it with consortia who are interested in doing cross-national analyses. The shared data may only be used for analyses that are pre-approved by the WMH-ICS EC and the publication must follow WMH-ICS guidelines for co-authorship.

Cohort Financial Contributions to operating the WMH-ICS Consortium

The research at HMS involves the time and effort of staff to develop instruments and process data for cohorts. The typical costs are outlined here below. This assumes that the instrument used does not change significantly across cohorts. Contributions made at these levels fund the core work of the consortium.

Instrument Development	
Development of Baseline Instrument	\$4,500
<u>Development of Follow-Up Instrument</u>	<u>\$2,500</u>
TOTAL	\$7,000 <i>-per country consortium.</i>

Data Processing	
<u>Contribution <i>per each college cohort*</i> enrolled</u>	<u>\$4,000</u>
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$4,000 x (number of cohorts receiving baseline, capped at 5)

*A “cohort” is a class-year of students at a single college. The data processing contribution covers a class that receives the baseline and includes their subsequent follow-ups until graduation.

- The Data Processing cost supports incorporating country consortium data into the WMH-ICS master cross-national dataset.
- The operating costs of the consortium for data processing are estimated as follows:
 - Example 1: Country A there are 4 colleges participating in WMH-ICS. In 2020 first-years in all 4 colleges receive the WMH-ICS baseline survey. The WMH-ICS 2020 Data Processing contribution would be \$4,000 * 4 cohorts = \$16,000
 - Example 2: Country B has 10 colleges participating in WMH-ICS. In 2020 each of those colleges has a cohort of first-years who receive the WMH-ICS baseline survey, The Data Processing contribution is capped at 5 new cohorts, so the total would be \$4,000 * 5 cohorts = \$20,000

Follow-up survey requirements:

- The follow-up survey is a panel survey design. A follow-up survey should be carried out only with students who completed a survey the prior year. The baseline survey will usually be administered to first year students, who can then be followed-up in subsequent years.
- Follow-up data must be supplemented with data on GPA (or comparable academic scores) and a variable to indicate if the student dropped out before year 2 (and thus can’t be followed) for students who completed the baseline survey.