

Special Issue

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Message from the Guest Editors

Mental health and substance abuse issues are significant global health challenges, especially the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has seen elevated levels of anxiety, depression, and alcohol use disorders. The bidirectional relationship between mental disorders and substance abuse—stemming from shared underlying factors such as genetic vulnerabilities, changes in brain structure and chemistry, and environmental stressors—promotes high rates of dual diagnosis. Indeed, dual diagnosis can lead to poorer health and social outcomes for affected individuals. These challenges are often inextricably linked to a lack of political will, limited financial resources, inadequate governance and policy frameworks, and insufficient human capital. Yet, some countries have successfully adapted by developing and implementing relevant, impactful interventions and initiatives such as task shifting and sharing in the mental health workforce to increase the reach and impact of mental health services in low-resource contexts. Such efforts have highlighted the importance of strategic innovation and collaboration.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 March 2026)



Behavioral Sciences

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.5
CiteScore 3.1
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/247053

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With warm greetings, it is a pleasure to invite you to contribute a research article or comprehensive review for consideration and publication in *Behavioral Sciences*. *Behavioral Sciences* is an international, scientific, open access journal providing an advanced forum for discussions and research regarding the intersection between psychiatry, neuroscience, psychology, cognitive and behavioral sciences, and behavioral biology. More information are available at: <https://www.mdpi.com/journal/behavsci>. We would be pleased to welcome you as one of our authors and have the opportunity to consider your work for publication.

Editor-in-Chief

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