

*PUBLIC HEALTH PAPERS*

63

SCHIZOPHRENIA:  
A MULTINATIONAL  
STUDY



*WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION*  
*GENEVA*

# SCHIZOPHRENIA: A MULTINATIONAL STUDY

A summary of the initial evaluation phase of the  
International Pilot Study of Schizophrenia



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

GENEVA

1975

This publication is a shortened version of *Report of the International Pilot Study of Schizophrenia, Volume 1*, Geneva, World Health Organization, 1974  
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# COLLABORATING INVESTIGATORS AND OTHERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE INTERNATIONAL PILOT STUDY OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

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## PARTICIPANTS AT IPSS MEETINGS (UNLESS MENTIONED ABOVE)

Dr J. McFie; Dr P. Schneider; Dr E. Slater; Dr J. Vaña; Dr J. M. Velasco-Izaga, and WHO staff members. In addition, exchange visits of collaborating investigators were arranged during the course of the study, and other staff of the field research centres involved and various experts from other institutions attended the meetings.

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## INTRODUCTION

### *Historical background*

In 1959 WHO convened an expert committee on the epidemiology of mental disorders (World Health Organization, 1960). This committee reviewed the existing knowledge and stressed the need for reliable and valid data on the incidence and prevalence of mental disorders. The committee recommended that WHO should assist in activities concerned with psychiatric epidemiology in various countries of the world and coordinate and initiate research in this field. The committee felt that WHO should concentrate on problems that can be better solved through international coordination than by a single group and that it should explore unique situations found in particular countries where supplementation of local efforts is required. A series of studies were suggested, including studies aiming at a refinement of techniques for the observation, classification, recording, and counting of psychiatric disorder and the elucidation of problems of research design, and studies on the influence of the sociocultural environment on the clinical condition and course of mental disorders. Other suggestions were made concerning studies on operational problems, such as the evaluation of psychiatric services and clinical research on problems of the causation of psychiatric disorders.

The first steps taken towards implementing these recommendations were in the form of two important publications. One, by Dr D. D. Reid (1960), concentrated on epidemiological methods in the study of mental disorders. The second, by Dr T.-Y. Lin and Dr C. C. Standley (1962), focused on the scope of epidemiology in psychiatry.

Almost at the same time an informal meeting took place in Dr M. Kramer's office at the National Institute of Mental Health, and Dr S. W. Greenhouse, Dr M. Katz, Dr T.-Y. Lin, Dr B. Pasamanick, and Dr

J. Zubin discussed the desirability and feasibility of studying the diagnostic process as a basis for developing effective methods for psychiatric epidemiology and cross-cultural research.

A number of consultations and discussions were held subsequently, and in 1964 WHO organized a Scientific Group meeting.<sup>1</sup> This group, which was chaired by Dr R. Felix, recommended to WHO priorities for mental health research. The group gave high priority to the development of methods for carrying out epidemiological research in a cross-cultural setting. After the meeting of the Scientific Group in 1964, Dr Lin, in consultation with leading experts from several countries, including Dr G. M. Carstairs, Dr W. Caudill, Dr Essen-Möller, Dr R. Felix, Dr M. Greenblatt, Dr E. Gruenberg, Dr M. Kramer, Dr A. Lewis, Dr E. Strömberg, Dr J. K. Wing, Dr L. Wynne, and others, prepared the WHO meeting of investigators on comparative research on specific mental disorders in 1965. Discussion centred on WHO's research programmes concerned with the epidemiology of mental disorder and social psychiatry and an outline was produced for a long-term plan of studies in this area. Three basic papers were prepared for this meeting, one by Dr Lin, another by Dr Wing, and the third by Dr Caudill. Consultations and work continued after this meeting and several months later Dr Lin, Dr Strömberg, Dr Wing, and Dr Wynne worked out an initial plan of the International Pilot Study of Schizophrenia (IPSS), which was presented to the Meeting of Investigators in the IPSS in 1966.<sup>1</sup> At the same time a grant was applied for and received from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH); thus the funds necessary for the project were made available from three sources: WHO, NIMH, and the collaborating centres. Soon afterwards the IPSS started.

The spirit of collaboration which was so very important in producing the initial proposals continued to be an essential factor in the further development of this study. Each important decision was reached after many consultations, and many people made contributions at various stages of the project.

Some of the collaborating investigators and consultants are no longer connected with the project but their work and achievements were significant at the time when they were made and remain so today.<sup>2</sup>

### *The shortened version*

This volume is a concise version of *The International Pilot Study of Schizophrenia, Volume I*. The collaborating investigators agreed that it would be misleading to single out any person as editor or principal author of that volume, since this would be contrary to the spirit of the project, which from the earliest days had been a collaborative one.

Each chapter of Volume 1 of the report of the IPSS (World Health

<sup>1</sup> The reports on these meetings are available on request from the Office of Mental Health, World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

<sup>2</sup> A list of the collaborating investigators and others who contributed to the IPSS is given on page 5.



Organization, 1974) was drafted by an author designated for the purpose. A list of chapters with names of the authors of the drafts is given in the Authors' Preface to that volume, and the names of the authors whose chapters were the basis for condensation into each of the chapters of this concise volume are presented below. An editorial working group consisting of Dr T.-Y. Lin, Dr N. Sartorius, Dr J. Strauss, Dr E. Strömgen, and Dr J. K. Wing made suggestions and comments about each of the drafts of Volume 1. The various contributors then redrafted their chapters and this process was repeated several times until a prefinal draft was produced, which was edited first by Dr Wing and then by the editorial working group. Dr R. W. Shapiro, Mr M. Kimura, and Dr Sartorius gave the volume the final scrutiny. All the collaborating investigators discussed and commented on each of the various drafts of Volume 1.

The material presented in Volume 1 was rewritten and condensed into this concise version mainly by Dr Shapiro. Chapter 6, which describes CATEGO, was rewritten and condensed by the author of the original chapter on CATEGO, Dr Wing.

The chapters of the present volume and the names of the individuals who drafted the chapters in Volume 1 on which they are based, are listed below.

- Chapter 1: Introduction—Aims of the IPSS. Based on chapter 1, written by Dr J. K. Wing and Dr T.-Y. Lin.
- Chapter 2: Design. Based on chapter 1, written by Dr J. K. Wing and Dr T.-Y. Lin, chapters 3, 5, and 6, written by Dr N. Sartorius and Miss E. M. Brooke, and chapter 8, written by Dr J. Strauss and Dr J. Bartko.
- Chapter 3: The diagnosis of schizophrenia in cross-cultural studies—the need for a standardized symptomatological approach. Based on chapter 2, written by Dr E. Strömgen and Dr J. K. Wing.
- Chapter 4: Characteristics of the study population. Based on chapter 9, written by Dr N. Sartorius and Miss E. M. Brooke, with substantial contributions by Dr R. W. Shapiro and Mr. M. Kimura.
- Chapter 5: Units of Analysis, Groups of Units, and the psychopathology of patient groups. Based on chapter 7, written by Dr N. Sartorius and Miss E. M. Brooke, and chapter 10, written by Dr N. Sartorius and Miss E. M. Brooke, with substantial contributions by Dr R. W. Shapiro, Mr M. Kimura, Dr J. Bartko, Dr M. Kramer, and Dr K. Williams.
- Chapter 6: Clinical classification by computer. Based on chapter 11, written by Dr J. K. Wing.
- Chapter 7: Cluster analysis. Based on chapter 12, written by Dr J. Strauss, with substantial contributions by Dr J. Bartko and Dr W. Carpenter.
- Chapter 8: A concordant group of schizophrenics. Based on chapter 13, written by Dr N. Sartorius, Dr R. W. Shapiro, and Mr M. Kimura, with contributions by Dr J. Bartko, Mr M. Kramer, and Dr A. Williams.
- Chapter 9: Discussion and conclusions. Based on chapter 14, written by Dr J. K. Wing.

The volume is thus in a real sense the product of many hands, and the endeavour it records is the work of many more.

### *Funding*

This project has been funded in roughly equal parts from three major sources—the Field Research Centres, the National Institute of Mental