

women. CHWs can serve as effective pesticide interventionists. Since both Hg and selected pesticides are neurotoxins, these findings served as the foundation for a recently awarded GEOHealth research and research training grant to ascertain adverse neurodevelopmental effects in 1000 mother/child dyads. The results from this research will inform a gap- and opportunities assessment of relevant environmental policies in Suriname.

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Managing diabetes and co-morbid mental health problems in low and middle income countries: A scoping literature review

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Purpose: The aim of this study was to inform best practice strategies for managing diabetes and co-morbid mental health problems in LMICs based upon a scoping literature review.

Method: A scoping literature review was conducted with the keywords “diabetes”, “depression”, “LMICs”, “mental health”, “treatment”, and “management”. International databases including PubMed and Google scholar were consulted, as well as the websites of the World Health Organization and International Diabetes Federation. 25 publications were selected with relevance to the topics including those on diabetes and depression in LMICs ($n = 9$), diabetes and other mental disorders in LMICs ($n = 10$) and diabetes and mental health treatment not in LMICs ($n = 6$). These publications included original research ($n = 10$), literature reviews ($n = 8$), conceptual papers ($n = 4$) and reports ($n = 3$).

Results/Findings: 80% of persons with type 2 diabetes reside in LMICs and 1/3 are depressed. Depression is more common in women and associated with older age, being overweight, poor glycaemic control, and pernicious habits. Anxiety and stress are also common among diabetics, and associated with unemployment and lack of physical activity. Among those with depression, and other mental disorders, two-thirds are not recognized. The most widely reported interventions for diabetes and depression in LMICs are antidepressants, psychotherapy, or a combination of both. Task sharing approaches which have been used in LMICs to train nurses or lay health care workers to assist patients with taking medications and exercising, have potential for delivery of mental health services to diabetics.

Conclusion: Diabetes and co-morbid depression or other mental health problems, is a major public health problem in LMICs that needs to be better addressed. Best practice strategies should adopt a task sharing approach with nurses, lay health workers, and peers to assist in mental health prevention, screening, and care for diabetics. To inform this approach, further research is needed that characterizes the mental health needs, supports and resources, and barriers to care of diabetics with depression and other mental health disorders.

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Tuberculosis epidemiology and novel transmission routes in rural Tanzania

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