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Triennial Report, the WPA Section for Urban Mental Health (2023–2026)

During the 2023–2026 triennium, the WPA Section on Urban Mental Health continued to promote international collaboration and academic exchange on the mental health challenges associated with rapid urbanization. Through scientific meetings, webinars, publications, and regular communication among members, the Section strengthened its global network and addressed emerging issues affecting mental health in urban settings.

The Section successfully organized scientific symposia at the WPA World Congress of Psychiatry in Vienna (2023) and Mexico City (2024), providing an international platform for discussion on current topics in urban mental health. These symposia highlighted the impact of urbanization on mental health across different regions and encouraged interdisciplinary collaboration among psychiatrists and mental health professionals.

In 2025, the Section organized two international webinars. The first webinar, Mental Health Challenges in the Digital Urbanized Society: Internet Gaming Disorder, Modern-Type Depression, Personality Formation and Hikikomori (January 20, 2025), focused on the psychological consequences of digitalization and rapid urban development. The second webinar, Climate Psychiatry in Urban Cities (July 14, 2025), addressed the mental health impacts of climate change and environmental change in urban settings. In addition, an international seminar entitled Harmonization between Urbanization and Nature in Future Mental Health was held at Hokkaido University, Japan, on September 23, 2025, promoting dialogue on sustainable urban development and mental well-being. Regular online Section meetings further strengthened collaboration among members from different regions.

The Section also contributed to academic dissemination through publications. In 2025, two representative papers were published, including an article in *World Psychiatry* describing the role of the WPA Section on Urban Mental Health and another in *Neuropsychiatry* focusing on urban mental health, hikikomori, and modern-type depression. Membership remained active and international, with approximately 30 members representing 18 countries, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and global exchange.

Looking ahead, the Section will continue its scientific and educational activities at the WPA World Congress of Psychiatry 2026 in Stockholm. The Urban Mental Health Section will organize an Urban Mental Health Symposium on 23 September 2026 (15:30–16:30), presented by Professor Umberto Volpe and Professor Takahiro A. Kato, and will also convene its annual Section meeting. Through these initiatives, the Section remains committed to promoting research, education, and international collaboration to address emerging mental health challenges associated with urbanization.