

# Foreword

Mental health is increasingly being recognised as a public priority in today's societies and economies. Understanding and mapping both its positive and negative dimensions is key to informing a number of public policies and actions by the private sector and civil society. This report aims to support national statistical offices and other data producers in collecting high-quality measures of population mental health outcomes in a more frequent, consistent and internationally harmonised manner. It documents existing measurement practice across OECD countries, discusses the advantages and limitations of available measurement tools, and recommends priority measures (for both mental ill-health and positive mental states) to adopt in household, social and health surveys. While this report does not present fully-fledged measurement guidelines, it complements past OECD WISE Centre work aiming to advance the statistical agenda on people's well-being, including guidelines on subjective well-being; trust; and the quality of the working environment. This publication is the first of two reports prepared as part of a special assessment of mental health and well-being in the context of the OECD *How's Life?* publication series. The second report applies a well-being lens to population mental health by examining its interlinkages with the different economic, social, environmental and relational dimensions of people's lives as exemplified by the OECD Well-being Framework.

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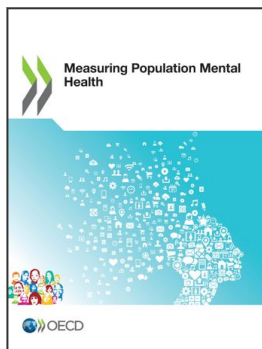
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