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Sommario/riassunto	The widening recognition of mental health as a significant international public health issue has led to an increasing need to demonstrate that investment of resources into service development is both required and also worthwhile. In particular, there is a need to generate evidence on mental health care strategies that are not only effective and appropriate but are also cost-effective and sustainable. Aimed at health policy-makers and service researchers with an interest in strengthening mental health systems, this publication sets out to highlight the need for and relevance of an economic dimension to decision-making and to summarise results from existing mental health economic analyses.