

DIAGNOSTIC & STATISTICAL MANUAL PSYCHIATRY'S DEADLIEST SCAM

DVD, 78 minutes

Produced by:

Citizens Commission on Human Rights

Available from:

CCHR National Office,
PO Box 6402 North Sydney
NSW 2059. Tel: (02) 9964 9844

Price: \$18 (inc. postage)

The Diagnostic & Statistical Manual (DSM) is an ever-growing manual used to diagnosis mental illness. It began with three entries in its original form and ballooned to 374 disorders in DSM IV. DSM V is on the way.

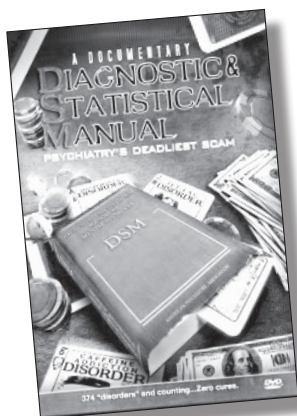
Volumes I and II were based on Freudian psychology and hence psychiatrists were not taken especially seriously by other members of the medical profession since they could offer no "hard evidence" for any of the mental disorders they supposedly diagnosed. In an attempt to gain respect, acceptance and access to a large amount of insurance funding, DSM III took a more supposed scientific approach. It spoke in terms of purely biological causes for mental illnesses and of chemical imbalances. The only problem with both DSM III and IV is that no empirical evidence has ever been presented to back its claims; indeed much research finds there is, for example, no relation between serotonin and depression.

The illusion of a scientific foundation to the various categories of mental illness allowed psychiatrists to not only prescribe a large number of psycho pharmaceuticals, each related to a given group of random symptoms, but to enforce compliance. In certain situations patients can be committed to an institution or a court order enforced to make sure they are taking their medications.

Freedom of Information requests reveal that a large number of the psychiatrists "creating" new categories of supposed mental illness have their research funded by pharmaceutical

companies. It seems such an obvious conflict of interest – you are funded by a drug company to develop a drug to treat a condition on which you and other funded researchers then vote to have put in the DSM. Yes, I used the word vote, this is how new entries are placed in the DSM. No hard medical evidence, no blood or MRI tests, just groups of psychiatrists arguing and debating until entries are decided.

This may all seem ridiculous until we realise that the psycho pharmaceuticals are not confectionary – most have serious side effects, ranging from suicidal thoughts to causing liver, kidney and heart damage. There have also been some 440 reported deaths linked to anti-psychotics and 250 deaths linked to anti-depressants, so taking a supposedly helpful medication for a chemical imbalance can result in dangerous and life threatening symptoms, a lifetime of damage or even death.



From the DSM III onward, the problems of life were medicalised, groups of symptoms which may or not be related linked together, a diagnosis offered and a related drug suggested. No counselling needed, just take this pill and you will be fine. The truly frightening thing is that as the number of disorders increase everyone can find themselves in the DSM in one category or another.

Psychiatry has created an artificial definition of reality, a supposed statistical norm or average and is attempting to reduce everyone to a number and consumer. As Mark Twain said, there are "Lies, damned lies, and statistics" – there is no such thing as an average in the real world. The average family has two and a half children, have you ever met half a child? It sounds like a silly argument but statistics do not work in the world of human beings and ignore the unique characteristics of each person.

Psychiatry has created a pegboard composed of round wholes, and if you are another shape it will break your edges off via medication or even more intrusive means such as electro shock to get the supposed

"normality" they desire. True medical treatment is evidence based and founded on assessing the individual nature of each patient, their unique problems and qualities. Psychiatry is an in-out process with appointments not usually more than 30 minutes and based on ticking boxes on a list found in the DSM: human beings reduced to empty numbers and quantities.

The documentary *Diagnostic & Statistical Manual: Psychiatry's Deadliest Scam* is powerful and convincing. It shows how many psychiatrists are themselves horrified by DSM and the way mental illnesses are created. It is filled with firsthand source materials from psychiatrists, patients, as well as an objective history of DSM, psycho pharmaceuticals and their side effects.

When we consider how many drugs are prescribed everyday – 15,000 a day in Victoria alone – it becomes clear there is a major problem. When we consider that the fastest developing realm of psychiatry is childhood depression and ADHD, this is not just a nightmare for adults alone, but something every parent must think very seriously about. We are becoming a medicated society, manipulated by a new high priesthood controlled by pharmaceutical companies who at the end of the day only have a dollar signs in their eyes.

– Robert Black

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