

Recent Study Calls Psychological Assessments “Junk Science”, Mental Health Watchdog Agrees

Study reveals that many psychological tests used in courtrooms by judges to make legal decisions are considered scientifically unreliable.

CLEARWATER, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES, August 11, 2020

/EINPresswire.com/ -- In a campaign to remove the stigma attached to mental illness, advocates have created numerous observance days, weeks and months which is why August is known as “National Health Center Week”. This observance week focuses on treatment and education with the underlying intention of having more people submit to psychiatric assessments, tests and evaluations.

However, a recent study labels many of these tests “Junk Science” and calls into question such assessments being used in courts of law. [1,2]

According to the study published earlier this year in the journal, *Psychology Science in the Public Interest*, a team of psychologists and attorneys reviewed over 360 assessment tests commonly used in the legal system and concluded that a third of them were scientifically unreliable. [3]

The Florida chapter of the [Citizens Commission on Human Rights](#) (CCHR), watchdog organization that investigates abuse in the mental health industry, believes that it is not just tests used in courtrooms but tests used in any setting that are questionable at best.

“It has been admitted by a former chairman for the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders (DSM) that there are no objective tests in psychiatry, no X-ray, laboratory, or exam

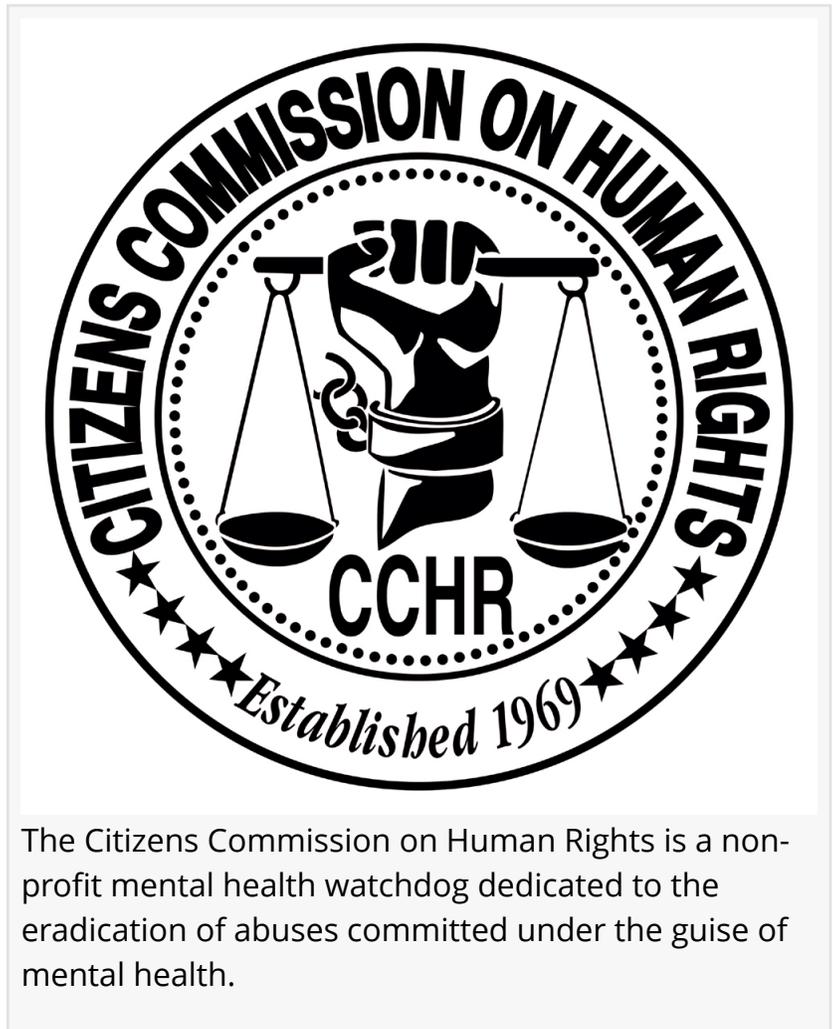


“There are no objective tests in psychiatry, no X-ray, laboratory, or exam finding that says definitively that someone does or does not have a mental disorder.”
—Allen Frances, Former DSM-IV Task Force Chairman

finding that says definitively that someone does or does not have a mental disorder,” stated Diane Stein the president of CCHR Florida. “But this does not stop the psychiatric industry from pushing for more tests and even mandatory testing.” [4]

During Mental Health Month in May of this year, the call to action was for a million [mental health screenings](#) to be completed. Individuals interested in learning more about mental illness were driven to websites where they could take a series of quizzes called screening tools which are marketed as the quickest and easiest way to determine if someone is experiencing “symptoms” of a mental health condition. [5]

“According to those pushing for more psychiatric testing, many of the people who take these tests have never been diagnosed with a mental illness making it the perfect generator for new business,” said Diane Stein. [6]



The Citizens Commission on Human Rights is a non-profit mental health watchdog dedicated to the eradication of abuses committed under the guise of mental health.

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Psychiatric treatment is one of the most lucrative businesses in the world with global sales reaching \$76 billion a year.”

Citizens Commission on Human Rights

Psychiatric treatment is one of the most lucrative businesses in the world with global sales reaching \$76 billion a year, and according to IMS Health, a company that provides information, services and technology for the healthcare industry, there are over 78 million people taking psychiatric drugs in the United States. [7,8]

“All too often a person seeking help is simply labeled and given a script for a psychiatric drug with potentially dangerous side effects,” said Stein. “This isn’t help. This is

business, business built on the pain of others.”

Additionally, as reported in Scientific American, 1 in 6 American adults reported taking a psychiatric drug in a 2013 study and currently more than 7 million U.S. children are being prescribed psychiatric drugs and hundreds of thousands of these children are between the ages

of zero to five. [9,10]

The targeting of children for mental health screening is of grave concern to CCHR who believes that parents are not properly informed of their rights in these matters.

"In an effort to increase safety in schools there appears to be an increase in the covert psychological screening of students," said Stein. "If a child is being 'looked at' regarding his or her mental health, the parent should be told before this is done and given the opportunity to refuse and to help their child in the manner, they feel is best."

In response, CCHR created a [Parental Rights Guidebook](#) for Florida parents which lists out rights in easy to understand terms. This free booklet is available for download on the CCHR website and the campaign to inform parents of their rights has now reached over 330,000 via social media. To learn more, please call 727-442-8820 or visit www.cchrflorida.org.

About CCHR: Initially established by the Church of Scientology and renowned psychiatrist Dr. Thomas Szasz in 1969, CCHR's mission is to eradicate abuses committed under the guise of mental health and enact patient and consumer protections. L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology, first brought psychiatric imprisonment to wide public notice: "Thousands and thousands are seized without process of law, every week, over the 'free world' tortured, castrated, killed. All in the name of 'mental health,'" he wrote in March 1969.

Sources:



The headquarters for CCHR Florida are located in downtown Clearwater.



CCHR wants to know why psychiatric drugs for kids are being promoted so heavily to parents, teachers and health care professionals

[1] Psychological Assessments in Legal Contexts: Are Courts Keeping “Junk Science” Out of the Courtroom?

<https://journals.sagepub.com/stoken/default+domain/10.1177%2F1529100619888860+-+FREE/pdf>

[2] A New Study Challenges the Reliability of Court Psych Exams: A team of lawyers and psychologists reviewed 364 exams used in the legal system, finding a third of them don't pass muster with forensic mental health experts. By Sara Harrison WIRED- Science 03.02.2020

<https://www.wired.com/story/a-new-study-challenges-the-reliability-of-court-psych-exams/>

[3] Ibid.

[4] Psychiatric Disorders Voted into Existence <https://www.cchr.org/quick-facts/disorders-voted-into-existence.html>

[5] <https://www.mhanational.org/mental-health-month>

[6] Ibid.

[7] Total Number of People Taking Psychiatric Drugs in the United States <https://www.cchr.org/psychiatric-drugs/people-taking-psychiatric-drugs/>

[8] Psychiatry: Hooking Your World on Drugs <https://www.cchr.org/cchr-reports/psychiatry/introduction.html>

[9] MENTAL HEALTH: 1 in 6 Americans Takes a Psychiatric Drug - Antidepressants were most common, followed by anxiety relievers and antipsychotics <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/1-in-6-americans-takes-a-psychiatric-drug/>

[10] Number of Children & Adolescents Taking Psychiatric Drugs in the U.S. <https://www.cchr.org/psychiatric-drugs/children-on-psychiatric-drugs/>

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Currently over 7 million U.S. children are being prescribed psychiatric drugs, with more than 600 thousand between the ages of zero to five.

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/523779182>

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