

America's Hidden Epidemic: Psychiatric Drugs, Addiction and Suicide

America spent over \$62 billion on psychiatric drugs in 2020 in what one watchdog group is calling an epidemic of addiction and suicidal side effects.

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- There is growing concern that psychiatric drugs, fueled by exorbitant mental health spending, are being over prescribed and are causing more harm than what is being publicized. [1] The pharmaceutical companies and the psychiatric community pocket some \$62 billion on psychiatric drugs as part of a mental health spending of over \$225 billion. [2,3] Coupled with ever increasing suicide rates and addiction this is an epidemic that is under reported. [4]



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The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) in 2004, issued a “black-box” label warning indicating that the use of certain antidepressants to treat major depressive disorder (MDD) in adolescents may increase the risk of suicidal ideations and behaviors. Per *Frontiers in Psychiatry* this was entirely justified. [5]

“

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President for the Florida chapter of CCHR, Diane Stein

The side-effects of these drugs include some of the most alarming and horrific symptoms imaginable including: thoughts about suicide or dying, attempts to commit suicide, new or worsening depression, new or worsening anxiety, feeling very agitated or restless, panic attacks, trouble sleeping (insomnia), new or worsening irritability, acting aggressively, being angry, or violent, acting on dangerous impulses, an extreme increase in activity and

talking (mania), and other unusual changes in behavior or mood. [6]

According to the [Citizens Commission on Human Rights](#) (CCHR), a watchdog organization that exposes abuse in the mental health industry, the surge in psychiatric drug prescriptions, the associated side effects and the increasing suicide rates should be investigated.

“We are living in a drugged society that is blindly taking dangerous drugs such as antidepressants without fully understanding the risks,” said Diane Stein, President of CCHR Florida. “The FDA needs to step up and conduct an investigation into the relationship between psychiatric drugs and suicide.”

Is the U.S. Hooked on Psychiatric Drugs?

Evidence is piling up that this psychiatric epidemic is further indication that the United States has gotten hooked on psychotropics with approximately 1 in 6 Americans taking these drugs. [7] Medicaid drug expenditures have seen a double-digit increase in spending with psychiatric drugs scoring the highest percentage.

[8] Additionally, over 3.4 million Americans filled at least one prescription for management of depression, anxiety or insomnia in 2019. This does not include Medicare or Medicaid beneficiaries. [9] Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Americans are taking medications that may not work or may be inappropriate for their mental health problems. [10]

This addiction was reported by the New York Times. The Times published its investigation in an article entitled, “Most People Taking Antidepressants Discover They Cannot Quit.” The information in this story makes a clear case that the reason for the mounting long-term usage rates of these drugs – which were only researched and marketed for short term periodic use – is



According to data taken from the IQVia Total Patient Tracker Database for Year 2019, extracted February 2020, 61,262 children between the ages of 0-5 years are prescribed antipsychotics in the US.



With more than 34 million Americans taking antidepressants in 2013-14, addiction and withdrawal from psychiatric is a growing problem.

because antidepressants are addictive.

For this particular report, the Times had access to data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, with data compiled over the last two decades. "Overall, more than 34.4 million adults took antidepressants in 2013-4, up from 13.4 million in the 1999-2000 survey", the Times reports.

"Many who try to quit say they cannot because of withdrawal symptoms they were never warned about", the Times researchers conclude. [11]

Collateral Damage

There is much collateral damage to this psychiatric induced plague. "America faces an unprecedented suicide epidemic. According to a study conducted by the CDC, the national suicide rate increased by more than 25% between 1999 and 2016, and has increased by more than 30% in more than half of U.S. states. In 2016 alone, nearly 45,000 people took their own lives. With the recent suicides of high-profile celebrities Kate Spade and Anthony Bourdain, the U.S. suicide epidemic is once again front and center in the public eye." [12]

It is difficult to face, but psychiatric medications kill more Americans than Heroin! In 2014, 10,574 people died of heroin overdose while 15,778 died from an overdose of psychiatric medications, nearly 50% more. [13]

CCHR encourages anyone who is being advised that they or a loved one should take psychiatric drugs to demand a "[differential diagnosis](#)" where the doctor obtains a thorough history and conducts a complete physical exam, ruling out all the possible problems that might cause a set of symptoms and explains any possible side effects of the recommended treatments. For more



The Antidepressant: Suicide Link Ten Years Post Black Box Warning



Patients have not been warned of the horrific withdrawal effects, a point that psychiatrist Allen Frances made in an interview with CNN's Christiane Amanpour in 2018.

information or to [report psychiatric abuse](#) please visit www.cchrflorida.org or call 1-800-782-2878.

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.

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[7] Adult Utilization of Psychiatric Drugs and Differences by Sex, Age, and Race <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/fullarticle/2592697>

[8] Wasting the Taxpayers Medicaid Dollars on Psychiatric Drugs <https://www.rethinkingpsychiatry.org/wasting-the-taxpayers-medicare-dollars-on-psychiatric-drugs/>

[9] Percentage of patients in the U.S. taking antidepressants in 2019, by state <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1133632/antidepressant-use-by-state-us/>

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[13] Psychiatric Medications Kill More Americans than Heroin <https://www.rehabs.com/pro-talk/psychiatric-medications-kill-more-americans-than-heroin/>

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