

# How SSRI Antidepressants Cause Suicide, Homicide and Mass Shootings



David Carmichael

**KNOW YOUR DRUGS**



## **SSRIs (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors)**

- 1987 - Prozac (fluoxetine) Eli Lilly
- 1991 - Zoloft (sertraline) Pfizer
- 1992 - Paxil (paroxetine) GlaxoSmithKline
- 1994 - Luvox (fluvoxamine) Abbott Laboratories
- 1998 - Celexa (citalopram) Forest Laboratories
- 2002 - Lexapro (escitalopram) AbbVie
- 2011 - Viibryd (vilazodone) AbbVie

# **Scientific data from clinical trials with Paxil indicates that the side effects 1/100 to 1/1,000 patients will experience include:**

- Abnormal thinking
- Agitation
- Alcohol abuse
- Amnesia
- Anxiety
- Depersonalization
- Euphoria
- Hallucinations
- Hostility
- Insomnia
- Lack of emotion
- Manic reaction
- Nervousness
- Paranoid reaction

Source: Paxil Medication Guide, GlaxoSmithKline, United States, 2007

# Prescription Drugs Associated With Violence (22 are psychiatric drugs)

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Chantix/Champix         | 17. Abilify                |
| 2. Prozac/Sarafem          | 18. OxyContin/Roxicodone   |
| 3. Paxil/Seraxat/Aropax    | 19. Wellbutrin/Zyban       |
| 4. Amphetamines (Adderall) | 20. Geodon                 |
| 5. Lariam                  | 21. Ritalin                |
| 6. Strattera               | 22. Remeron                |
| 7. Halcion                 | 23. Neurontin              |
| 8. Luvox                   | 24. Keppra/Elepsia/Spritam |
| 9. Effexor                 | 25. Valium                 |
| 10. Pristiq                | 26. Xanax                  |
| 11. Singulair              | 27. Cymbalta               |
| 12. Zoloft                 | 28. Klonopin               |
| 13. Ambien                 | 29. Roferon                |
| 14. Cipralex/Lexapro       | 30. Risperdal              |
| 15. Xyrem                  | 31. Seroquel               |
| 16. Celexa                 |                            |

Source: Thomas J. Moore, Joseph Glenmullen and Curt D. Furberg.  
Prescription Drugs Associated with Reports of Violence Towards Others.  
*PLoS ONE*. December 2010.



Psychiatrist Peter Breggin and trial lawyer Andy Vickery talking about SSRI antidepressants, violence and a 1989 mass shooting involving Prozac





Presentation validates the need to study the connection between SSRI antidepressants and mass shootings as Robert F. Kennedy Jr. stated before he was challenged by Senator Tina Smith at a confirmation hearing as the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services on January 29, 2025 when she said that “the science shows that there is no link between school shootings and antidepressants.”





Vermont senator Bernie Sanders on a 2023 episode of The Late Show with Stephen Colbert talking about pharmaceutical company paid lobbyists in Washington, DC





October 2004

Black box warning about SSRIs was issued:

"Antidepressants increased the risk compared to placebo of suicidal thinking and behavior (suicidality) in children, adolescents, and young adults in short-term studies of major depressive disorder (MDD) and other psychiatric disorders. Patients of all ages who are started on antidepressant therapy should be monitored appropriately and observed closely for clinical worsening, suicidality, or unusual changes in behavior."



Health  
Canada

June 2004

Health Canada is advising Canadians that Selective Serotonin Re-uptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) and other newer anti-depressants, now carry stronger warnings. These new warnings indicate that patients of all ages taking these drugs may experience behavioural and/or emotional changes that may put them at increased risk of self-harm or harm to others.

Patients, their families and caregivers should note that a small number of patients taking drugs of this type may feel worse instead of better, particularly within the first few weeks of treatment or when doses are adjusted. For example, they may experience unusual feelings of agitation, hostility or anxiety, or have impulsive or disturbing thoughts that could involve self-harm or harm to others.



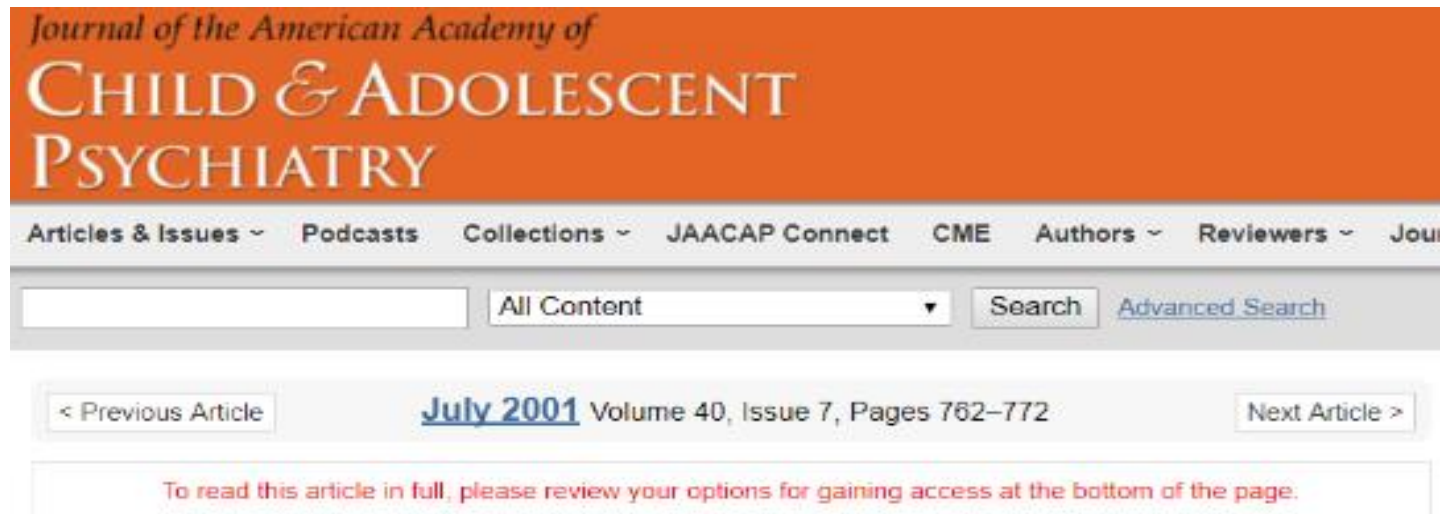
Robert F. Kennedy Jr. explaining why the connection between SSRI antidepressants and mass shootings needs to be studied

# **Medical System HOWS**

**Pharmaceutical companies mislead the public about the safety and efficacy of prescription drugs by fraudulently concealing negative clinical trial data and illegally promoting drugs for off-label uses**

# 2001 - Study 329

Eight-week, placebo-controlled, double-blind, randomized control trial - Ghostwritten article



The screenshot shows the header of the Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry. The journal title is in a large, serif font. Below it is a navigation bar with links for Articles & Issues, Podcasts, Collections, JAACAP Connect, CME, Authors, Reviewers, and Journals. A search bar is present with a dropdown menu set to 'All Content' and a 'Search' button. Below the navigation bar, there are buttons for '< Previous Article' and 'Next Article >'. The article title 'Efficacy of Paroxetine in the Treatment of Adolescent Major Depression: A Randomized, Controlled Trial' is displayed in a large, serif font. Below the title, the authors' names are listed in a smaller, serif font, with some names underlined. A red text box at the bottom of the screenshot states: 'To read this article in full, please review your options for gaining access at the bottom of the page.'

*Journal of the American Academy of*  
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< Previous Article **July 2001** Volume 40, Issue 7, Pages 762–772 Next Article >

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## Efficacy of Paroxetine in the Treatment of Adolescent Major Depression: A Randomized, Controlled Trial

MARTIN B. KELLER, M.D., [NEAL D. RYAN](#), M.D., [MICHAEL STROBER](#), PH.D., [RACHEL G. KLEIN](#), PH.D., [STAN P. KUTCHER](#), M.D., [BORIS BIRMAHER](#), M.D., [OWEN R. HAGINO](#), M.D., [HAROLD KOPLEWICZ](#), M.D., [GABRIELLE A. CARLSON](#), M.D., [GREGORY N. CLARKE](#), PH.D., [GRAHAM J. EMSLIE](#), M.D., [DAVID FEINBERG](#), M.D., [BARBARA GELLER](#), M.D., [VIVEK KUSUMAKAR](#), M.D., [GEORGE PAPATHEODOROU](#), M.D., [WILLIAM H. SACK](#), M.D., [MICHAEL SWEENEY](#), PH.D., [KAREN DINEEN WAGNER](#), M.D., PH.D., [ELIZABETH B. WELLER](#), M.D., [NANCY C. WINTERS](#), M.D., [ROSEMARY OAKES](#), M.S., [JAMES P. MCCAFFERTY](#), B.S.

## Study 329 - Results/Conclusions

Five percent taking paroxetine (5/93) and one percent on a placebo (1/87) experienced “emotional lability”

Paroxetine is generally well tolerated and effective for treating major depression in adolescents.

# 2015 - Restoring Study 329

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## Research

### Restoring Study 329: efficacy and harms of paroxetine and imipramine in treatment of major depression in adolescence

BMJ 2015 ; 351 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.h4320> (Published 16 September 2015)

Cite this as: BMJ 2015;351:h4320

Article

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Joanna Le Noury, research psychologist<sup>1</sup>, John M Nardo, retired clinical assistant professor<sup>2</sup>, David Heely, professor<sup>1</sup>, Jon Jureidini, clinical professor<sup>3</sup>, Melissa Raven, postdoctoral fellow<sup>3</sup>, Catalin Tufanaru, research associate<sup>4</sup>, Elie Abi-Jaoude, staff psychiatrist<sup>5</sup>



# Clinical Trial Conclusions/Results

## Study 329 (2001)

Paroxetine is generally well tolerated and effective for treating major depression in adolescents.

5% taking paroxetine (5/93) and 1% on a placebo (1/87) experienced “emotional lability”

## Restoring Study 329 (2015)

Paroxetine is not effective for treating major depression in adolescents and there is an increased risk of harm including suicidal ideation and behaviour.

12% taking paroxetine (11/93) and 1% on a placebo (1/87) became suicidal



# 2001 Staff Memorandum

08/16/01

**To:** All Sales Representatives Selling *Paxil*      **cc:** RVPs  
TSMs  
**From:** Zachary Hawkins      *Paxil* DSMs  
RMSs  
*Paxil* Product Management

**Study Title** "Efficacy of Paroxetine in the Treatment of Adolescent Major Depression: A Randomized, Controlled Trial"

**Author(s)** Martin B. Keller, M.D.

**Journal** *J. AM.ACAD. CHILD ADOLESC. PSYCHIATRY* 2001

**Date Vol Pages** 2001, July, Vol. 40:7: 762-772

**Significance of article** This "cutting-edge," landmark study is the first to compare efficacy of an SSRI and a TCA with placebo in the treatment of major depression in adolescents. *Paxil* demonstrates REMARKABLE Efficacy and Safety in the treatment of adolescent depression.

**Staff memorandum part of evidence  
against GSK in U.S. federal government  
False Claims Act \$3 billion settlement in  
2012 based on whistleblower information**

"Once you realize what you're doing could  
cause more harm than good, you say to  
yourself, this is wrong."

Blair Hamrick

# Illegal Off-Label Promotion

- Doctors are allowed to prescribe a drug for off-label use (not approved by government regulator to treat that health condition).
- It is against the law for pharmaceutical companies to market prescription drugs for off-label uses.
- Pharmaceutical companies promote drugs for off-label uses based on pseudoscience, which puts lives at risk for a commercial motive.
- Pharmaceutical sales representatives illegally influence doctors to prescribe and promote drugs for off-label uses with things such as financial kickbacks, free lunches and dinners, all-expense paid trips to retreats, and paid speaking opportunities.
- Doctors also take large sums of money under the guise of educational grants to push drugs for off-label uses, and receive honoraria to promote products in unlicensed areas, which results in immense profits for pharmaceutical companies.

**Part of evidence  
against GSK in U.S.  
federal government  
\$3 billion settlement**

Antidepressant Wellbutrin was promoted off-label to patients of all ages, including adolescents and children, for treating:

- Obesity (weight loss)
- Sexual dysfunction
- ADHD and ADD
- Bipolar disorder and anxiety
- Addictions to drugs, alcohol and gambling

[illegible]

**Psychiatrists and doctors promote the chemical imbalance theory of depression, prescribe SSRIs for normal mental health challenges and rarely obtain informed consent before prescribing an SSRI**



“Chemical Imbalance” was a  
Big Pharma scam to push  
drugs on normal people  
experiencing the expectable  
sadness/anxiety of everyday life.”

Dr. Allen Frances

Tweet: January 18, 2018

# Prescribing of SSRIs for normal mental health challenges is getting younger

“My family doctor wanted to prescribe Prozac to my 5-year-old son because he got really nervous before batting in Tee Ball”

Mother

Sacramento, California, May 2024



“Many young people who start having suicidal thoughts shortly after starting an SSRI are taken to hospitals by their parents, admitted, and given more psychiatric drugs to treat side effects that are misdiagnosed as mental disorders. This leads to psychiatric polypharmacy, which has ruined a lot of young lives.”

Dr. Gail Tasch

# It is a legal requirement for doctors to obtain informed consent:

1. Nature of procedure or intervention;
2. Risks and benefits of procedure or intervention;
3. Reasonable alternatives;
4. Risks and benefits of alternatives.

| MEDICATION CONSENT FORM   |        |                           |           |
|---|--------|---------------------------|-----------|
| PATIENT INFORMATION   |        |                           |           |
| PATIENT NAME  |        | DATE OF BIRTH             |           |
| ADDRESS   |        | PHONE NUMBER              |           |
| ALLERGIES   |        |                           |           |
| MEDICATION INFORMATION  |        |                           |           |
| NAME OF MEDICATION  | DOSAGE | ROUTE                     | FREQUENCY |
| INDICATION  |        |                           |           |
| CONSENT   |        |                           |           |
| <p>I, the undersigned, understand that the decision to use this medication is based on the professional judgment of the prescribing healthcare provider. I acknowledge that no guarantees or assurances have been made to me regarding the outcomes or effects of this medication.</p> <p>I have been provided with information regarding the potential risks, benefits, and alternatives to this medication. I have had the opportunity to ask questions and have received satisfactory answers.</p> <p>By signing this form, I hereby give my informed consent to receive the medication as prescribed above.</p> |        |                           |           |
| PATIENT SIGNATURE   |        | DATE                      |           |
| GUARDIAN/REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE<br>(If applicable)  |        | RELATIONSHIP TO PATIENT   | DATE      |
| PRESCRIBER INFORMATION  |        |                           |           |
| PHYSICIAN/PRESCRIBER NAME   |        | LICENSE NUMBER            |           |
| PHYSICIAN/PRESCRIBER SIGNATURE  |        | DATE                      |           |
| PROVIDER NAME   |        | CONTACT INFORMATION       |           |
|   |        | SAVE PRINT<br>Page 1 of 1 |           |

# **Personal HOWS**

# **Side effects of SSRIs that can cause suicide, homicide and mass shootings**

1. Akathisia
2. Emotional blunting
3. Delirium – psychosis

Dr. David Healy



# Delirium - Psychosis

## Delirium

Delirium is a state of mental confusion that starts suddenly. It is also called an 'acute confusional state'.

Medical problems, surgery and medications can all cause delirium. It usually lifts when the condition causing it gets better. It can be frightening - not only for the person who is unwell, but also for those around him or her.

Source: Royal College of Psychiatrists, United Kingdom

## Psychosis

Psychosis refers to a collection of symptoms that affect the mind, where there has been some loss of contact with reality. During a psychotic episode, a person's thoughts and perceptions are disrupted and they may have difficulty recognizing what is real and what is not.

People with psychosis experience delusions (fixed-false beliefs) and/or hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that others do not).

Source: National Institute of Mental Health, United States





# 2018 Statement The Dr. Oz Show

Mr. Carmichael's case is clearly a tragedy but medicines like this are an important option for treating depression.

Patient safety is our priority and there is **no scientific evidence** that this medication causes homicidal, **psychotic** or violent behavior.

# **“no scientific evidence”**

Statements about scientific evidence are based on clinical trial data used to get drugs approved by government regulators (e.g., FDA, Health Canada).

**2007 Medication Guide for Paxil lists psychosis as a rare side effect (fewer than 1 in 1,000 patients) based on scientific data from clinical trials. Delusions is also listed as a rare side effect and hallucinations is listed as an infrequent side effect (1/100 to 1/1,000 patients).**

Postmarketing reports of side effects (adverse drug reactions) are considered anecdotal evidence and defended as correlation not causation.

# **Significance of Legal Precedents**

# 2001 legal precedent against for fraudulent concealment



- A Wyoming jury awarded \$6.4 million to the family of Donald Schell, who, in 1998 at 60 years of age, fatally shot his wife, their daughter, and 9-month-old granddaughter after taking two pills of Paxil the day after he received a prescription.
- The jury was shown hidden data from GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) clinical trials supporting the argument that Paxil can cause healthy adults to become suicidal, violent and homicidal.

Plaintiff's Lawyers: James Fitzgerald from Cheyenne, Wyoming and Andy Vickery from Houston, Texas



# **2023 legal precedent against for medical malpractice for not obtaining informed consent before prescribing Prozac**



- In 2023, the Supreme Court of the State of Idaho vacated the summary judgment of the District Court for further proceedings for medical malpractice against the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare and a physician's assistant for outpatient mental health services.
- In 2018, Terri Mattson was diagnosed with major depressive disorder and prescribed Prozac by a physician's assistant without receiving any information about side effects after signing a general "Informed Consent for Treatment" form.
- Two months later, the day of a follow-up appointment, she bought a bottle of vodka, drank the entire bottle while driving to her appointment and attempted suicide by shooting herself in the head in the Department's parking lot.
- The lawsuit against the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare and the physician's assistant was settled out of court in 2024.

Plaintiff's Lawyers: John Layman from Spokane, Washington and Andy Vickery from Houston, Texas

# **Landmark legislation in Tennessee for psychiatric drug testing of mass shooters**

- In April 2025, the state of Tennessee passed a groundbreaking law with bipartisan support requiring autopsies of deceased mass shooters to include toxicology testing for psychiatric drugs.
- The law mandates toxicology testing for individuals who killed four or more people, along with consultation with their mental health service providers.
- The law calls for the University of Tennessee Health Science Center to study the interactions between psychiatric drugs and other substances in drug perpetrators' systems, and for the public to have access to the psychiatric drug use of shooters when requested, with personal identifiers redacted.

# **Landmark legislation in Illinois for mandatory mental health screening in schools**

- In July 2025, the state of Illinois passed a groundbreaking law that makes it mandatory for schools to conduct mental health screening for students in grades 3-12 starting in the 2027-28 school year.
- The tests will be provided to schools at no cost. Parents will be able to opt their children out of the screenings, which will be made available once a year.

**BOTTOM LINE**

**The amount of money a pharmaceutical company makes for**

- **fraudulently concealing negative clinical trial data to get drugs approved by government regulators and/or**
- **illegally marketing a prescription drug for off-label uses and/or**
- **intentionally omitting, underreporting or delaying the reporting of ADRs from postmarketing experiences to government regulators**

**is often much higher than what the company would be penalized by governments for fraud and/or other criminal activities.**

# United States

Pharmaceutical companies were penalized \$62.3 billion by the federal and state governments for misconduct between 1991 and 2021.

Net income of 35 large pharmaceutical companies between 2000 and 2018 was \$1.9 trillion.

Source: Persistent Misconduct Forces Pharmaceutical Manufacturers to Pay \$62.3 Billion in Penalties. *Public Citizen Health Research Group*. May 21, 2024.


Source: Fred D. Ledley, Sarah Shonka McCoy, Gregory Vaughan, and Ekaterina Galkina Clearly. Profitability of large Pharmaceutical Companies Compared With Other Large Public Companies. *The Journal of the American Medical Association*. March 3, 2020. Pages 834-843.



Trial lawyer Brent Wisner talks with Tim O'Brien on his podcast *Shaping Opinion* about GSK fraudulently concealing data about cancer-causing contaminants in the drug Zantac to get it approved by the FDA in 1983 for treating heartburn. Hidden documents were discovered through a civil litigation process. In 2020, the FDA requested that Zantac and its generic version ranitidine be withdrawn from the market.

In January 2025, the Sackler family and Purdue Pharma agreed to pay \$7.4 billion in a settlement with 15 states for unlawfully starting the opioid crisis by claiming that the painkiller OxyContin, which was approved by the FDA in 1995, was not addicting. Purdue Pharma filed for bankruptcy in 2019, when it was facing thousands of civil lawsuits, and was restructured as Knoa Pharma in 2025.

## Richard Sackler Internal E-mail



**"We have to hammer on the abusers in every way possible. They are the culprits and the problem. They are reckless criminals."**

- Massachusetts Attorney General Lawsuit

**LAW & CRIME TRIAL NETWORK**

The background of the slide features a collage of legal documents, including a "FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT AND JURY" and various court filings, which provide context for the legal proceedings against the Sackler family.



# More than 100,000 Americans died from opioid overdoses in 2018

## The Deadly Toll of America's Opioid Crisis

Countries with the highest estimated number of drug-related deaths per million persons aged 15-64



Source: UNODC



*How the Pharmaceutical Companies Transformed  
Themselves into Slick Marketing Machines  
and Hooked the Nation on Prescription Drugs*

# OUR DAILY MEDS



MELODY PETERSEN

*Sarah Crichton Books, 2008*

Melody Petersen, Investigative Reporter  
The New York Times - Los Angeles Times

Last paragraph in OUR DAILY MEDS

*Start a revolution.*

This is your medical system. You're paying dearly for it, whether you use it or not. At some point, you or someone you care about will have to use it, and your lives will depend on it.

Write or talk to your state and federal lawmakers. Vote for political candidates who promise to take on the pharmaceutical industry and change the system so that patients once again come first.

There's too much at stake.

"Tough, cogent, and disturbing enough to have a serious impact. A chilling investigation." *The New York Times*