

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

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

Journal of the American Academy of

CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY

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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



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

Related content

Metrics

Responses

Peer review

Joanna Le Noury, research psychologist¹, John M Nardo, retired clinical assistant professor², David Healy, professor¹, Jon Jureidini, clinical professor³, Melissa Raven, postdoctoral fellow³, Catalin Tufanaru, research associate⁴, Elie Abi-Jaoude, staff psychiatrist⁵

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 Product Management **Paxil DSMs**
RMSs

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

The pill doctors say will help you to slim

... AND THEY DISCOVERED IT BY ACCIDENT

DOCTORS have found a new pill to help you lose weight — purely by accident.

Doctors have discovered that a pill used for depression had the unexpected side effect of making patients eat less food.

There is even evidence it can help people stop smoking.

How does it work? Well, the drug — is憧憬ing — is combining

with the body's own mood-affecting chemicals to reduce depression, though it may be many times harder to gain weight.

Some of the women who have taken it have lost more weight than patients who are undergoing the more conventional drug, Xanax, which was licensed last year.

Amazed

Depression is said to be the second leading cause of death for men and women in the U.S. to prevent weight gain.

The drug has also been discovered to be an effective aid to smokers who want to quit and is due to be licensed for that use in November.

Though it isn't yet licensed to treat the condition, Dr. Michael Glazebrook, a professor at Duke University Medical Centre, North Carolina, prescribed it to a group of smokers to quit and it seemed to work.

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prescribed it to a group of smokers to quit and it seemed to work.

Dr. Glazebrook prescribed the drug for a group of smokers to lose weight at the University of Illinois medical

“I was amazed by what

happened because there had been nothing published about this drug except for a paper in the newspaper,” he says.

The patients were pleasantly surprised because they had been taking the drug for depression. They had lost from the drug, which they had been taking, weight.

Dr. Glazebrook, a professor at Duke University, was surprised by the results.

But the results of a few months of treatment are impressive. For example, one patient may have been a烟者.

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Dr. Glazebrook is concerned

about the side effects of the drug.

“The side effects are not

as bad as the side effects of

other drugs, but they are

there. We are not sure

what the side effects are

but we are not sure

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LOSING GOOD
the drug
Deprenyl
and the
pill that
weight
problems
a whole new
beginning

CASE STUDY: Jan Lucas

Jan Lucas, 35, a mother of two, had been struggling with depression and weight gain for years. She had tried various medications and therapies, but nothing seemed to work. Then, she heard about Deprenyl, a drug that had been shown to help depression and weight loss. She decided to give it a try, and within a few weeks, she noticed a significant improvement in her mood and energy levels. She also lost weight, which was a welcome side effect. Deprenyl has become a staple in her daily routine, and she continues to benefit from its effects.

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			
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.			
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.			
By signing this form, I hereby give my informed consent to receive the medication as prescribed above.			
PATIENT SIGNATURE	DATE		
GUARDIAN/REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE (if applicable)	RELATIONSHIP TO PATIENT	DATE	
PRESCRIBER INFORMATION			
PHYSICIAN/PREScriBER NAME	LICENSE NUMBER		
PHYSICIAN/PREScriBER SIGNATURE	DATE		
PROVIDER NAME		CONTACT INFORMATION	SAVE PRINT
		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



7-31-04 2H
9:58:57



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

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

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

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.