

**ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY
SEVENTH EDITION**

Oltmanns and Emery

PowerPoint Presentations
Ashlea R. Smith, Ph.D.

This multimedia and its contents are protected under copyright law. The following are prohibited by law: any public performance or displays, including transmission of any image over a network, preparation of any derivative work, including the extraction, in whole or in part, of any images, any rental, lease, or lending of the program.

Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

Chapter One

**Examples and Definitions of
Abnormal Behavior**

Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

Chapter Outline

1. Recognizing the Presence of a Disorder
2. Defining Abnormal Behavior
3. Who Experiences Abnormal Behavior?
4. The Mental Health Professions
5. Psychopathology in Historical Context
6. Methods for the Scientific Study of Mental Disorders

Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

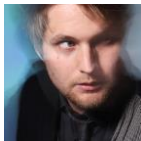
Overview

- The chapter will look at the field of **psychopathology** (*the pathology of the mind*), which deals with signs and symptoms of mental disorders.
- **Abnormal psychology** is the application of psychological science to the study of these mental disorders.
- This chapter will define behaviors and experiences that are abnormal; and the line dividing normality and abnormality is not always clear.

Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

Case Study

1. Kevin (35) a librarian and Joyce Warner (34) a nurse, were expecting a baby. Joyce was concerned that Kevin would lose his job so the Warners started seeing a psychologist for help.
2. The psychologist became concerned about Kevin's eccentric behavior.
3. In a series of events, Kevin became secluded and aloof suffering from paranoid thinking about his supervisor.



Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

Recognizing Mental Disorders

1. Mental disorders are defined by a set of mental and behavioral functions that disrupt normal mental and behavioral health.
2. These abnormal functions manifest as signs and symptoms of the disorder. One *symptom* is seldom sufficient to make a diagnosis, therefore **many symptoms** account for a disorder, e.g.,
3. A group of abnormal symptoms (**a syndrome**) that appear together are assumed to represent a specific type of disorder.

Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

Recognizing Mental Disorders

- 4. Mental disorders are defined in terms of:
 - Duration or persistence of maladaptive behaviors
 - Impairment in the ability to perform social and occupational roles
- 5. Psychologists and other mental health professionals confirm the presence of psychopathology using their observations and psychometric measurements.

Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

Defining Abnormal Behaviors

- 1. By what criteria do we decide whether a particular set of behaviors or emotional reactions should be viewed as a mental disorder?
 - Individual experience of personal distress
 - Statistical norms: how rare it is in the general population
- 2. Harmful Dysfunction
 - The condition results from the inability of some internal bodily mechanism to perform its natural function.

Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

Defining Abnormal Behaviors

- 2. Harmful Dysfunction (Continued)
 - The condition causes some harm to the person as judged by the standards of the person's culture. Not every dysfunction leads to a disorder.
- 3. Culture and Diagnostic Practice
 - Culture is defined as shared values, beliefs, and practices, which profoundly influence opinions of people regarding the differences between normal and abnormal behavior (Lopez & Guarnaccia, 2008).
 - Groups representing particular social values have put pressure on shaping the diagnostic manual.

Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

DEFINING ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR

- Harmful Dysfunction (continued)
 - The DSM-IV-TR (APA, 2000) definitions places primary emphasis on the consequences of certain behavioral syndromes.
 - Mental disorders are defined by clusters of persistent, maladaptive behaviors that are associated with personal distress (ex: anxiety or depression, impairment in social or occupational functioning).

Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

DEFINING ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR

- Culture and Diagnostic Practice
 - Culture is defined in terms of values, beliefs, and practices that are shared by a specific community or group of people.
 - They have a profound influence on opinions regarding the difference between normal and abnormal (Lopez & Guarnaccia, 2008).
 - There have been many instances in which groups representing particular social values have brought pressure to bear on decisions shaping the diagnostic manual.

Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

Is Sexual Addiction A Meaningful Concept?

The symptoms of this disorder presumably include low self-esteem, insecurity, need for reassurance, and sensation seeking.

Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

Who Experiences Abnormal Behavior?

- Frequency in and Impact on Community Populations
 - **Epidemiology**: the scientific study of the frequency and distribution of disorders within a population (Gordis, 2008)
 - **Incidence**: the number of new cases of a disorder that appear in a population during a specific period of time
 - **Lifetime prevalence**: total proportion of people in a given population who have been affected by the disorder at some point during their lives

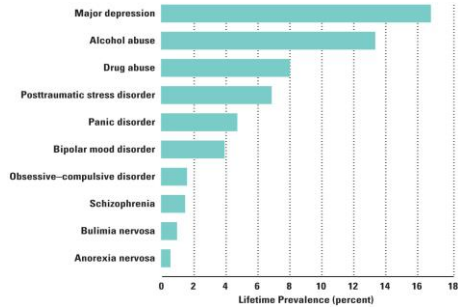
Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

WHO EXPERIENCES ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR?

- Frequency in and Impact on Community Populations
 - **Lifetime Prevalence and Gender Difference**
 - The NCS-R found that 46% of the surveyed people received at least one lifetime diagnosis.
 - Epidemiological studies consistently find gender differences for many types of mental disorders.

Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

Frequency of Mental Disorders in the Community



Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

Who Experiences Abnormal Behavior?

- Frequency in and Impact on Community Populations
 - Comorbidity and Disease Burden
 - The presence of more than one abnormal condition within the same period of time.
 - Disease burden is measured by combining two factors: mortality and disability.

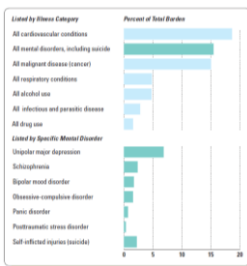
Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

How does the impact of mental disorders compare with that of other health problems?

- Epidemiologists measure disease burden by combining factors of mortality and disability.
- Although mental disorders are responsible for only 1% of all deaths, they produce 47% of all disability in developed countries and 28% of all disability worldwide.

Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

Impact of Mental Disorders and Other Medical Conditions



Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

WHO EXPERIENCES ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR?

- Cross-Cultural Comparisons
 - All mental disorders are shaped, to some extent, by cultural factors (Draguns & Tanaka-Matsumi, 2003).
 - No mental disorders are entirely due to cultural or social factors.
 - Psychotic disorders are less influenced by culture than are nonpsychotic disorders.
 - The symptoms of certain disorders are more likely to vary across cultures than are the disorders themselves.

Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

Who provides help for people with mental disorders?

Clinical psychologists perform many roles: direct clinical services, research, teaching, and administrative activities.

Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

THE MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONS

- **Psychiatry:** branch of medicine concerned with the study and treatment of mental disorders.
 - Licensed to practice medicine, also known as psychiatrists
 - Prescribe psychotropic medication
- **Clinical psychology:** concerned with the application of psychological science to the assessment and treatment of mental disorders.
- **Social work:** concerned with helping people achieve an effective level of psychosocial functioning.

Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- The Greek Tradition in Medicine
 - Hippocrates (460-377 BC) ridiculed demonological accounts of illness and insanity.
 - Health depended on a balance of 4 bodily fluids: blood, black bile, phlegm, & yellow bile
 - The Hippocratic perspective dominated medical thought in Western countries until the middle of the nineteenth century (Golub, 1994).

Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Some common treatment modalities were the use of bloodletting, purging, and the use of heat and cold.

Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Creation of the Asylum

- Disturbed behavior was considered to be the responsibility of the family rather than the community or state.
 - Insane asylums established in 1600s and 1700s.
 - Asylums were a little more than human warehouses.
 - The moral treatment movement led to improved conditions in some asylums.
 - Dorothea Dix

Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Massachusetts Lunatic Asylum (as it appeared in 1835) was the first large state mental institution in the U.S.

Treatment included physical and moral procedures.

Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

HISTORY OF PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

- Lessons learned:
 - The invention and expansion of public mental hospitals led directly to our current mental health
 - The creation of psychiatry as a professional group
 - Importance of scientific research

Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

METHODS FOR THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF MENTAL DISORDERS

- The Uses and Limitations of Case Studies
 - An in-depth look at the symptoms and circumstances surrounding one person’s mental disturbance.
 - Can provide:
 - An exhaustive catalog of symptoms
 - The manner in which the symptoms emerged
 - The developmental and family history that preceded the onset of the disorder

Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

METHODS FOR THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF MENTAL DISORDERS

- The Uses and Limitations of Case Studies (continued)
 - Whatever response the person may have shown to treatment efforts
 - Provide information about conditions that have not received much attention
 - Drawbacks:
 - Can be viewed from several different perspectives
 - Risky to draw general conclusions

Copyright © Pearson Education 2011

List of Research Methods Featured in This Book

TABLE 1.4 List of Research Methods Featured in This Book

Chapter	Topic
1	Who Must Provide Scientific Evidence?
2	Correlations: Does a Psychology Major Make You Smarter?
3	The Experimental Method: Does Therapy Cause Improvement?
4	Reliability: Agreement Regarding Diagnostic Decisions
5	Analogous Studies: Do Rats Get Depressed, and Why?
6	Statistical Significance: When Differences Matter
7	Retrospective Reports: Remembering the Past
8	Longitudinal Studies: Lives over Time
9	Cross-Cultural Comparisons: The Importance of Context
10	Psychotherapy Placebos: Controlling for Expectations
11	Studies of People at Risk for Disorders
12	Hypothetical Constructs: What Is Sexual Arousal?
13	Comparison Groups: What Is Normal?
14	Finding Genes That Cause Behavioral Problems
15	Central Tendency and Variability: What Do IQ Scores Mean?
16	Samples: How to Select the People We Study
17	Heritability: Genes and the Environment
18	Base Rates and Prediction: Justice Blackmun's Error

Copyright © Pearson Education 2011
