

# FACTS ABOUT DRUGGING CHILDREN FOR PROFIT: PAYING THE PRICE IN SUICIDE AND DEATH



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- Psychiatric drugs are prescribed to 20 million children worldwide, 9 million in the United States. These drugs potentially cause violent behavior, psychosis, hallucinations, strokes, cardiac irregularities and heart attacks, obesity, liver damage, stunted growth, seizures, convulsions, irreversible central nervous system damage, life-threatening diabetes and even suicide.

- Psychiatrist William Glasser says: “Parents are told that if they don’t medicate, their child will have unsatisfying social interactions and be rejected by peers, which will exacerbate their behavior problems. But no scientific evidence shows that stimulants improve a child’s ability to socialize...Drugs don’t heal...Their effects wear off after a few hours....The child is literally back to ground zero. There’s no personal growth, just dependency.”

- At least eleven of the recent school shootings were committed by teens who were taking or withdrawing from prescribed psychiatric drugs.

- Every 20 seconds a child in the United States takes an antidepressant so potentially dangerous that the FDA has issued its strongest “black box” warning, alerting the public that these drugs can cause suicidal thoughts and actions.

- The number of children prescribed antidepressants has increased more than tenfold since 1987.

- In many countries, these and other psychotropic drugs are prescribed to children 5 years old or younger.

- The scientific basis for ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) is fraudulent. The Food and Drug Administration states, “There is no biological test for ADHD.”<sup>1</sup> It was voted into the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) by members of the American Psychiatric Association in 1987. This has driven up sales of stimulants to treat ADHD to \$3 billion a year.

- In September 2005, the Oregon Health & Science University, Evidence-Based Practice Center published a review of 2,287 studies—virtually every study ever conducted on ADHD drugs—and found no trials have proved the effectiveness of these drugs. There is a lack of evidence that they could improve “academic performance, risky behaviors, social achievements, etc.” A fact backed by the National Institutes of Health which reported “there is little improvement in academic achievement or social skills” by children taking stimulant drugs.<sup>2</sup>

- Dr. William Carey, pediatrician with the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, states, “The current ADHD formulation, which makes the diagnosis when a certain number of troublesome behaviors are present and other criteria met, overlooks the fact that these behaviors are probably usually normal.”<sup>3</sup>

- Often an undiagnosed, untreated physical condition can cause unwanted behavior or supposed psychiatric symptoms. Parents should be given the option of a nonpsychiatric medical examination and access to all educational resources to address any perceived learning or behavioral problem in their child. Many alternatives to drugging exist.

**REFERENCES:**

1 Dixie Farley, "Attention Disorder: Overcoming the Deficit Abuse of Attention Deficit Drug Can Be Deadly" US Food and Drug

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2 "National Institutes of Health Consensus Development Conference Statement: Diagnosis and Treatment of Attention-Deficit/

Hyperactivity Disorder ADHD," Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, 1 Feb. 2000, p. 4.

3 Gina Shaw, "The Ritalin Controversy Experts Debate Use of Drug to Curb Hyperactivity in Children," The Washington Diplomat,

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