Chapter 13: Abnormal Psychology

PSY 100
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Psychological Disorders

- Afflict more than 1 in 10 Americans
  - more common than cancer
  - the leading reason for hospital admissions
    - filling 21% of hospital beds nationwide

- Costly
  - direct costs (medical bills)
  - indirect (lost work or decreased productivity)
  - mental illness costs $70 billion per year

- Important to recognize and treat mental illness
Defining Abnormal Behavior

Abnormality

- Social Norm violation
- Statistical abnormality
- Personal discomfort (distress)
- Maladaptive (Dysfunctional) behavior
- Deviation from an ideal
Models to Understand Mental Illness

Medical Model
- Abnormal behavior seen as a symptom of an underlying disease
- Interventions:
  - Remove/repair the defect surgically
  - Medicate
Models to Understand Mental Illness

- Equates health with lack of illness
- Medication is not the appropriate intervention as long as surgery is possible
- Garage Model of Psychotherapy
Models to Understand Mental Illness

- diathesis-stress model

- biopsychosocial model
DSM-IV

- Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, Fourth Edition
- Taxonomy of behavioral, mental, and psychiatric disorders
  - Atheoretical
  - Nomothetical
Multi-Axial System

- **Axis I**
  - Clinical syndromes and V-Codes

- **Axis II**
  - Developmental and Personality Disorders

- **Axis III**
  - Physical disorders

- **Axis IV**
  - Severity of Psychosocial Stressors

- **Axis V**
  - Global Assessment of Functioning
Criticisms of Labeling

- Self-fulfilling prophesy
- Create preconceptions leading to bias
- Stigmatizing
Insanity Defense

Insanity

- Legal term
- Determination whether individual has the ability to tell the difference between right and wrong

Kentucky Statute:

“insanity” means that, as a result of a mental condition, [a person lacks] substantial capacity to either appreciate the criminality of one’s conduct or to conform one’s conduct to the requirements of the law
Insanity Defense

Furthermore, a person is “not responsible for criminal conduct” if he or she is determined to have been insane at the time that conduct occurred.

Insanity defense is seldom used

And seldom successful
Anxiety Disorders

Phobic disorder
- Individual has irrational, overwhelming, persistent fear of a particular object or situation

Social phobia
- Intense fear of being humiliated or embarrassed in social situations
Anxiety Disorders

Generalized anxiety disorder
- Consists of persistent anxiety for at least a month
- Individual is unable to specify the reasons for the anxiety

Panic disorder
- Marked by recurrent sudden onset of intense apprehension or terror
Anxiety Disorders

Agoraphobia

- characterized by an intense fear of
  - entering crowded, public places
  - traveling away from home, especially by public transportation
  - feeling confined or trapped
  - being separated from a place or person associated with safety
Anxiety Disorders

- Obsessive-compulsive disorder
  - Individual has anxiety-provoking thoughts that will not go away (obsession) and/or urges to perform repetitive, ritualistic behaviors to prevent or produce some future situation (compulsion)
Anxiety Disorders

Post-traumatic stress disorder
- Develops through exposure to a traumatic event, severely oppressive situation, severe abuse, natural disaster, or accidental disaster
- Anxiety symptoms may immediately follow the trauma or be delayed
Somatoform Disorders

Somatoform disorders

Mental disorders in which psychological symptoms take a physical, or somatic, form even though no physical causes can be found
Somatoform Disorders

Hypochondriasis

- Individual has a pervasive fear of illness and disease

Conversion disorder

- Individual experiences specific physical symptoms even though no physiological problems can be found
Glove Anesthesia

(a) (b)
Dissociative Disorders

- Dissociative disorders
  - Involve a sudden loss of memory or change in identity

- Dissociative amnesia
  - Memory loss caused by extensive psychological stress
Dissociative Disorders

- **Dissociative fugue**
  - Individual not only develops amnesia, but also unexpectedly travels away from home and assumes a new identity

- **Dissociative identity disorder**
  - Formerly called multiple personality disorder
  - Individuals have two or more distinct personalities or selves
Mood Disorders

Mood disorders

Psychological disorders characterized by wide emotional swings, ranging from deep depression to extreme euphoria and agitation.
Mood Disorders

- Major depressive disorder
  - Individual experiences a major depressive episode and depressed characteristics for at least two weeks or longer
  - Vegetative symptoms of depression

- Dysthymic disorder
  - Generally more chronic and has fewer symptoms than major depressive disorder
Mood Disorders

Bipolar disorder

- A mood disorder characterized by extreme mood swings that include one or more episodes of mania (an overexcited, unrealistically optimistic state)
- Person may experience depression and mania
Causes of Mood Disorders

- **Biological causes**
  - Heredity and brain processes

- **Psychological causes**
  - Learned helplessness
    - occurs when individuals are exposed to aversive stimulation, such as prolonged stress or pain, over which they have no control
Schizophrenia

A severe psychological disorder characterized by:

- Thought disorders
  - Delusion: irrational beliefs held despite evidence to the contrary
  - Clang associations
  - Perseveration
  - Word Salad
  - Tangential Thinking
Schizophrenia

- Disorders of perception
  - Hallucinations: strong mental images with no basis in reality
- inappropriate emotion
- abnormal motor behavior
- social withdrawal
- odd communication

Positive vs. Negative symptoms
Types of Schizophrenia

- **Disorganized schizophrenia**
  - Individual has delusions and hallucinations that have little or no recognizable meaning

- **Catatonic schizophrenia**
  - Characterized by bizarre motor behavior, which sometimes takes the form of a completely immobile stupor
Types of Schizophrenia

- Paranoid schizophrenia
  - Characterized by delusions of reference, grandeur, and persecution

- Undifferentiated schizophrenia
  - Characterized by disorganized behavior, hallucinations, delusions, and incoherence
Causes of Schizophrenia

- Biological factors
  - Heredity and neurobiological factors

- Psychosocial factors
  - Diathesis-stress view
    - A combination of biogenetic disposition and stress causes schizophrenia
Social Disorders

Types of social disorders:
- Personality Disorders
- Sexual Disorders
  - Sexual Dysfunction
  - Paraphilias
- Substance Use Disorders
Personality Disorders

Personality disorders

Chronic, maladaptive cognitive-behavioral patterns that are thoroughly integrated into the individual’s personality
Odd/Eccentric Cluster

- Paranoid
- Schizoid
- Schizotypal
Dramatic/Emotionally Problematic Cluster

- Histrionic
- Narcissistic
- Antisocial
- Borderline
Chronic Fearfulness/Avoidant Cluster

- Avoidant
- Dependent
- Obsessive-compulsive
- Passive-aggressive
Paraphilias

- Exhibitionism
- Fetishism
- Frotteurism
- Pedophilia
- Sexual Masochism
- Sexual Sadism
- Transvestic Fetishism
- Voyeurism
Substance Use Disorders

Substance Dependence
- Tolerance
- Withdrawal
- Substance taken in larger amounts than intended
- Persistent desire or attempt to cut down
Substance Use Disorders

- Great deal of time is spent in activities related to drug
- Important social, occupational, or educational activities are given up
- Substance is continued despite knowledge of a problem that has been caused or made worse by use

3 of 7 needed in last 12 months
Substance Use Disorders

**Substance Abuse**
- Recurrent use resulting in failure to fulfill major role obligations at work, school or home
- Recurrent use in situations where it is physically hazardous
- Recurrent substance-use related legal problems
- Continued use despite persistent or recurring social or interpersonal problems caused or exacerbated by substance use


Heilbrun (1993). In G.G. Costello (Ed.), *Symptoms of schizophrenia*.


References


