

# Historical Perspectives on Abnormal Behavior

Chapter One  
Understanding Abnormality: A Look at History and Research Methods

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## Class Objectives

- Historical Perspectives
- What is Clinical Assessment and why is it used?
- What assessment methods do professionals use?

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“In Order to Understand the Future it is necessary to know and understand the past”

Psychopathology in a historical Context

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### What Causes Abnormal Behavior?

Sociocultural Factors

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### What Causes Abnormal Behavior?

Biological Factors

Psychological Factors

Sociocultural Factors

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### Where did it all begin?

- Abnormal behavior and psychological disorders have been documented for thousands of years.
- Although many early “treatments” are now recognized as cruel and ineffective, they were

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## Treatment was influenced by the social perception of mental illness

Very early in history (500-700 A.D) the problem was based on the medical model



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Later in history (500-1700 A.D) due to the influence of the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ for mental illness.



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## 1700-1900 A.D

People with psychological disorders or "madmen" were seen as dangerous animals who should be caged in order to protect society.



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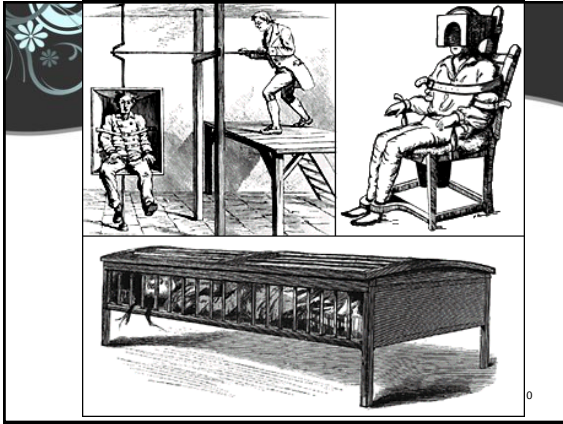
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These are some of the “treatments” that were used to contain and control the mentally ill.

Since mental illness was not seen at this time as a medical condition, the \_\_\_\_\_

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### Mental Health Reform


The unfortunate results of the Mental Hygiene Movement:

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Until the 1970's, most people with mental illness were warehoused in psychiatric institutions. The conditions in most psychiatric hospitals were terrible and often inhumane.

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### Deinstitutionalization

This federal policy \_\_\_\_\_  
from long-term care facilities to

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### Did it work as promised?

- ☑ Deinstitutionalization has been \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☑ Accounting for a very large percentage of the homeless population.  
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The community mental health movement has had many successes, but continue to \_\_\_\_\_

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**Assessment**

How are psychological disorders evaluated?



Chapter 3 Assessment

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**What is Clinical Assessment?**

*Clinical assessment* is a systematic evaluation and measurement that measures:

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\_\_\_\_\_

in a person who \_\_\_\_\_ have a psychological disorder.

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## Clinical Assessment

Only after a person is assessed can a *diagnosis* be given.

- This is the process of determining whether a presenting problem \_\_\_\_\_

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## Why is it important to have a process for assessing and diagnosing people?



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## Classification promotes Universal standards

Classification facilitates research on etiology and treatments of disorders, including best practices.

To be diagnosed with a psychological disorder very \_\_\_\_\_

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There is much debate on the classification of mental disorders

Some feel that diagnosis of psychological disorders do more harm than good, fail to truly address the individual's problem and create dehumanizing labels

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Next class...

- How are disorders assessed?
- How are disorders diagnosed?

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