



Assessment

How are psychological disorders evaluated?



Chapter 3 Assessment

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Class Objectives

- ▣ What is Clinical Assessment and why is it used?
- ▣ What assessment methods do professionals use?
- ▣ How are psychological disorders diagnosed?

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What is Clinical Assessment?

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

- Psychological
- _____
- _____
- _____

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Clinical Assessment

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

- This is the process of determining

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The diagnosis of a psychological disorder represents a way of classifying _____

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



Classification promotes Universal standards

- Classification is the core of scientific study, which allows researchers to communicate their findings more effectively.
- Classification facilitates _____
- To be diagnosed with a psychological disorder very _____

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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What is Assessment?

- Assessment is a procedure in which a clinician evaluates a person in terms of the psychological, social, and physical factors that have the most influence on a person's functioning



Clinical Interview

Information is gathered by the professional by talking with the client

- Current and past behavior
- Attitudes and emotions
- Social and interpersonal history
- Presenting problem
- Orientation



Clinical Description

A presenting problem typically refers to the _____ that brought the person in for help.

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What's the Presenting Problem?

Patricia was referred to the crisis center for suicidal thoughts and suicide attempt which followed an argument with her boyfriend. Patricia ingested a bottle of prescription pain medication and drank small amounts of a household cleaning product. Patricia was once hospitalized for major depression and suicidal statements.

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What was the presenting problem?



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Clinicians are interested in:

- ▣ Course - _____
- Described as either chronic, episodic, or time-limited
- ▣ _____ - number of people the population with a disorder
- ▣ Incidence - _____ of a disorder in a certain time period, usually per year
- ▣ Prognosis - future development
- ▣ Etiology - _____

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Mental Status Exam

- ▣ A systematic observation of a person's behavior

- ▣ Used by clinicians to determine whether or not a psychological disorder may be present.
- ▣ Most people do this everyday...including you ☺

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What are some things you observe when you meet someone for the first time?



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Mental status exams cover five general areas:

1. _____
 - Overt physical behaviors, appearance, body language, facial expression
2. Thought Processes
 - Are thoughts linear and organized?
 - Are there delusions/hallucinations present?

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Mental Status



3. Mood and affect:
 - ☐ Mood is the _____
 - Depressed, "anxious," "good," and "tired"
 - Does the person appear "down" or elated?
 - ☐ _____ refers to the feelings or outward show of emotions
 - Euthymic (normal), blunted (minimal variation), and flat affect (no variation).

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Mental Status

4. Intellectual functioning:

- Vocabulary and memory testing are used to help determine level of intellectual functioning
- Repeat these 3 words: 'pen,' 'chair,' 'flag'
- The "serial 7s"
- Abstracts and metaphors
- Proverbs

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Mental Status

5. Sensorium refers to our _____

- Clinicians assess a person's orientation to time, place and person.
- "Is the person oriented times 3?"

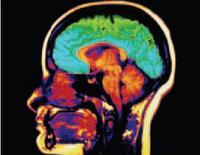


Psychological Testing

Cognitive Tests



Biological Tests



Projective Tests



What makes a psychological test good?

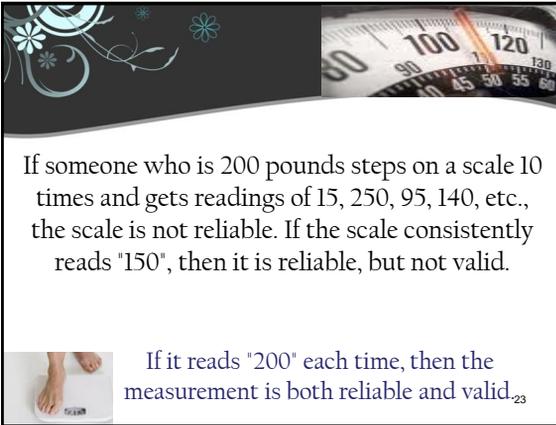
Validity:

- The _____ or measurement
- Does the assessment measure what it is designed to measure?

Reliability

- The _____, measurement, or category system

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If someone who is 200 pounds steps on a scale 10 times and gets readings of 15, 250, 95, 140, etc., the scale is not reliable. If the scale consistently reads "150", then it is reliable, but not valid.

If it reads "200" each time, then the measurement is both reliable and valid.²³

Standardized Tests

There are literally hundreds of standardized tests clinicians can use for assessment purposes.

1. Intelligence Testing
2. Personality and Diagnostic Testing
3. Behavioral Assessment
4. Biological Tests
5. Environmental Assessment
6. Multicultural Assessment

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Personality and Diagnostic Testing

Self-Report Clinical Inventories:

These responses yield _____ of psychological symptoms and personality profiles

- Beck Depression Inventory-II (BDI-II)
- Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2 (MMPI-2) ²⁵

Advantages:

Limitations:

Standardized tools sacrifice _____

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Projective Tests



Individual's _____ reveal information about emotional and mental functioning ²⁷
