



# **THE LINK BETWEEN PSYCHIATRIC DRUGS & SENSELESS VIOLENCE**

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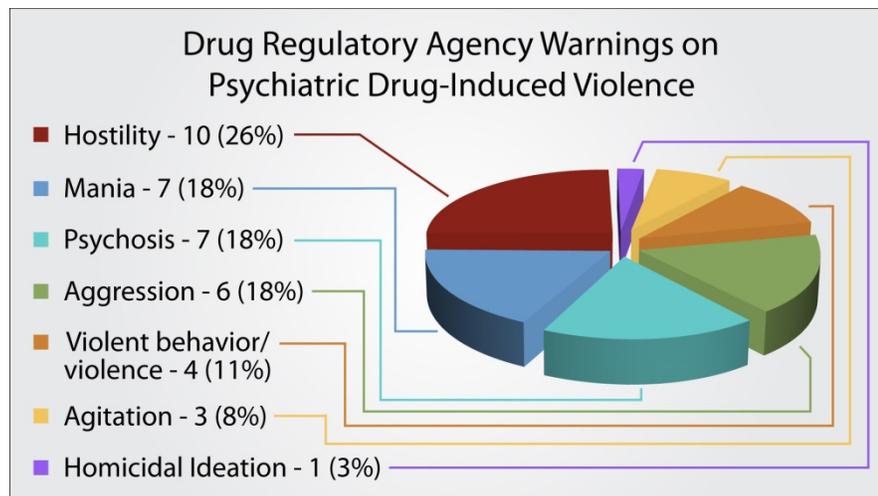


## The Link Between Psychiatric Drugs and Violence

There is overwhelming evidence that psychiatric drugs cause violence: 22 international drug regulatory warnings cite violence, mania, hostility, aggression, psychosis and even homicidal ideation. Individuals under the influence of such drugs and committing these acts of senseless violence are not limited to using guns and are not limited to just schools. Recent examples of individuals under the influence of such drugs include Navy Yard shooter Aaron Alexis and Fort Hood shooter Ivan Lopez.

- **Fact:** Despite 22 international drug regulatory warnings on psychiatric drugs citing effects of mania, hostility, violence and even homicidal ideation, and dozens of high profile shootings/killings tied to psychiatric drug use, there has yet to be a federal investigation on the link between psychiatric drugs and acts of senseless violence. These 22 warnings are from five countries and the European Union, and include the following (note that some warnings cite more than one side effect, so the list below may not be equal to the total number of warnings):

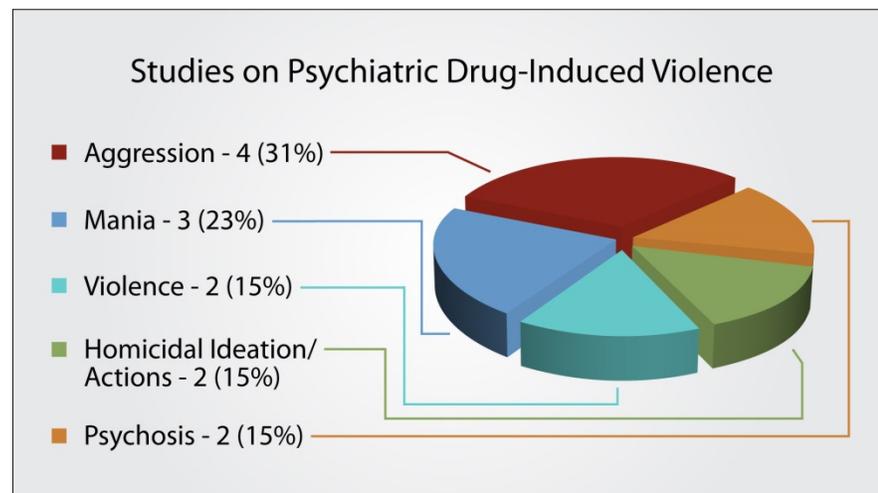
10 warnings on hostility  
 7 warnings on mania  
 7 warnings on psychosis  
 6 warnings on aggression  
 4 warnings on violent behavior/violence  
 3 warnings on agitation  
 1 warning on homicidal ideation



### *Full List of Warnings - I*

- **Fact:** There have been 10 studies in four countries on psychiatric drug-induced violence. These include the following (note that some studies cite more than one side effect, so the list below may not be equal to the total number of studies):

4 studies on aggression  
 3 studies on mania  
 2 studies on violence  
 2 studies on homicidal ideation/actions  
 2 studies on psychosis



### *Full List of Drug Studies - II*

- **Fact:** At least 34 school shootings and/or school-related acts of violence have been committed by those taking or withdrawing from psychiatric drugs resulting in 166 wounded and 78 killed (in other school shootings, information about their drug use was never made public—neither confirming or refuting if they were under the influence of prescribed drugs). The list includes not only mass shootings, but the use of knives, swords and bombs.

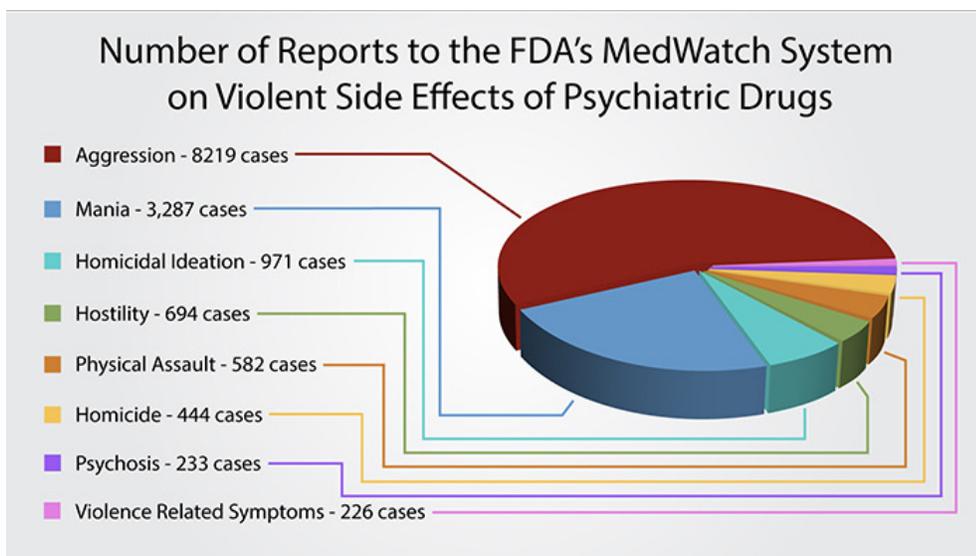
*List of School-related Acts of Violence - III*

- **Fact:** School-related acts of violence aren't the only cases commonly found to be under the influence of psychiatric drugs. There are 18 other recent acts of senseless violence committed by individuals taking or withdrawing from psychiatric drugs resulting in an additional 76 dead and 61 wounded.

*List of Other Acts of Violence - IV*

- **Fact:** Between 2004 and 2012, there have been 14,773 reports to the U.S. FDA's MedWatch system on psychiatric drugs causing violent side effects including: 1,531 cases of homicidal ideation/homicide, 3,287 cases of mania & 8,219 cases of aggression. (Note: By the FDA's own admission, less than 1% of side effects are ever reported to it, so the actual numbers of side effects occurring are most certainly higher.)

8,219 cases of aggression  
 3,287 cases of mania  
 971 cases of homicidal ideation  
 694 cases of hostility  
 582 cases of physical assault  
 444 cases of homicide  
 233 cases of psychosis  
 226 cases of violence-related symptoms



- High profile individuals who have spoken out about the need for a federal investigation into the psychiatric drug-violence link include filmmaker Michael Moore, former Congressman Ron Paul, former Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, neurosurgeon and chief medical correspondent on CNN Sanjay Gupta, Managing Editor of World Net Daily News David Kupelian, as well as several high profile psychiatrists from Harvard, Princeton and Cambridge University in the United Kingdom.

*List of Others Who've Spoken Out About Psychiatric Drugs and Violence - V*

While there is never one simple explanation for what drives a human being to commit such unspeakable acts of violence, all too often one common denominator has surfaced in hundreds of cases—prescribed psychiatric drugs which are documented to cause mania, psychosis, violence, suicide and in some cases, homicidal ideation. To date, there has been no federal investigation of the link between psychiatric drugs and acts of violence.

## I - Drug Regulatory Agency Warnings on Psychiatric Drugs and Violence

There have been 22 drug regulatory agency warnings from five countries and the European Union, on psychiatric drugs causing violence, hostility, aggression, psychosis, mania and homicidal ideation. These are as follows:

1. **United States, November 2005:** The FDA's Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program reported "**homicidal ideation**" as an adverse event of **Effexor ER** (extended release).<sup>1</sup>
2. **United States, March 22, 2004:** The FDA issued a Public Health Advisory on **antidepressants** stating: "**Anxiety, agitation, panic attacks, insomnia, irritability, hostility, impulsivity, akathisia [severe restlessness], hypomania [abnormal excitement, mild mania] and mania** [psychosis characterized by exalted feelings, delusions of grandeur and overproduction of ideas], have been reported in adult and pediatric patients being treated with antidepressants."<sup>2</sup>
3. **United States, October 1995:** The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) said **Ritalin** use could lead to addiction and that "**psychotic episodes, violent behavior and bizarre mannerisms** had been reported" with its abuse.<sup>3</sup>
4. **United States, June 28, 2005:** The FDA announced labeling changes for **Concerta** and other methylphenidate (**Ritalin**) products (stimulants) to include, "psychiatric events such as visual hallucinations, suicidal ideation, **psychotic behavior**, as well as **aggression or violent behavior**."<sup>4</sup>
5. **Canada, February 2006:** Health Canada approved a new warning label for **Paxil** that stated: "A small number of patients taking drugs of this type may feel worse instead of better. For example, they may experience **unusual feelings of agitation, hostility or anxiety**, or have impulsive or disturbing thoughts, such as thoughts of self-harm or harm to others." Health Canada required Paxil's product information to detail a list of "rare" side effects, including delusions, **hostility, psychosis, and psychotic depression**.<sup>5</sup>
6. **Canada, June 03, 2004:** Health Canada issued an advisory to the public that stated people taking **antidepressants** at any age are at greater risk of behavioral or emotional changes including **self-harm or harm to others**. The advisory said, "A small number of patients taking drugs of this type may feel worse instead of better.... For example, they may experience unusual feelings of **agitation, hostility or anxiety**, or have **impulsive or disturbing thoughts that could involve self-harm or harm to others**."<sup>6</sup>
7. **Japan, May 2009:** The Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare revised the label on newer antidepressants to warn that, "There are cases where we cannot rule out a causal relationship [of **hostility, anxiety, and sudden acts of violence**] with the medication."<sup>7</sup>

8. **European Union, August 19, 2005:** The Commission of the European Communities issued the strongest warning against child **antidepressant** use as recommended by Europe's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) stating that the drugs were shown to cause suicidal behavior including suicide attempts and suicidal ideation, as well as **aggression and hostility (predominantly aggression, oppositional behavior and anger)** and/or related behavior.<sup>8</sup>
9. **Australia, February 2009:** The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration placed a boxed warning (the strongest warning) onto the ADHD psychostimulant drug methylphenidate (**Concerta and Ritalin**) for drug dependence. It warns that chronic abuse of methylphenidate can lead to a marked tolerance and psychological dependence with varying degrees of **abnormal behavior** and **frank psychotic episodes** can also occur.<sup>9</sup>
10. **Australia, December 2004:** The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration published an Adverse Drug Reactions Bulletin recommending that any use of SSRI **antidepressants** in children and adolescents should be carefully monitored for the emergence of suicidal ideation and that there was an increase in adverse psychiatric events of suicide, **self-harm, aggression** and **violence**.<sup>10</sup>
11. **United States, July 01, 2009:** The FDA required the manufacturers of the smoking cessation aids varenicline (Chantix) and bupropion (Zyban, aka the antidepressant **Wellbutrin**) to add new Boxed Warnings and develop patient Medication Guides highlighting the risk of serious neuropsychiatric symptoms in patients using these products. These symptoms include changes in behavior, **hostility, agitation**, depressed mood, suicidal thoughts and behavior, and attempted suicide.<sup>11</sup>
12. **United Kingdom, March 2009:** Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (UK) published in their Drug Safety Update newsletter new information about Atomoxetine (Strattera, a non-stimulant ADHD drug). They warned that Atomoxetine is associated with **treatment-emergent psychotic or manic symptoms** in children without a history of such disorders.<sup>12</sup>
13. **Australia, December 2008:** The Australian Adverse Drug Reactions Bulletin advised that the psychostimulant **Modafinil** has been reported to cause serious adverse skin and psychiatric reactions including **anxiety, hallucination, aggression, and mania**.<sup>13</sup>
14. **European Union, November 20, 2008:** Eli Lilly added to the label for **Strattera** in Europe warnings that the drug causes "hallucinations, delusional thinking, **mania** or **agitation** in children and adolescents without a prior history of psychotic illness or mania..."<sup>14</sup>
15. **United States, September 2007:** The Vice President of Medical Services at the drug company Cephalon sent out a letter to health care professionals informing them of new warnings for the company's psychostimulant **Provigil**. The letter stated that there are now "Warnings regarding serious rash, including Stevens Johnson Syndrome [a life-threatening

condition affecting the skin] and hypersensitivity reactions, and psychiatric symptoms (including **anxiety**, **mania**, hallucinations, and suicidal ideation).”<sup>15</sup>

16. **United States, February 21, 2007:** The FDA directed **ADHD drug** manufacturers to distribute “patient friendly” guides to consumers warning about serious psychiatric and cardiovascular problems, including stroke, heart attack, sudden death and psychotic reactions caused by ADHD drugs. The psychiatric adverse events included hearing voices, becoming suspicious for no reason, or **becoming manic**, even in patients who did not have previous psychiatric problems.<sup>16</sup>
17. **United States, August 21, 2006:** The FDA said that **ADHD drug** manufacturers have to strengthen their warning labels to warn that the drugs can cause suppression of growth, **psychosis**, bipolar illness, **aggression**, and ‘serious’ cardiovascular side effects, including misuse possibly leading to sudden death from heart attacks and strokes.<sup>17</sup>
18. **European Union, April 25, 2005:** The European Medicines Agency’s scientific committee, the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use, concluded that **Prozac-type antidepressants** were associated with increased suicide-related behavior and **hostility** in young people. It recommended the inclusion of strong warnings across the whole of the European Union to doctors and parents about these risks and that the drugs should not be used in children and adolescents in off label situations.<sup>18</sup>
19. **United Kingdom, September 21, 2004:** The British Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority issued guidelines that children should not be given most SSRI antidepressants because of clinical trial data showing an increase rate of harmful outcomes, including **hostility**.<sup>19</sup>
20. **European Union, April 22, 2004:** The European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products issued a press release stating that, according to clinical trials, **Paroxetine (Paxil** in the U.S.) could cause suicidal behavior and **hostility** in children. It recommended that Paroxetine not be used in children and recommended that young adults be observed carefully for signs and symptoms of suicidal behavior or **hostility**.<sup>20</sup>
21. **Canada, August 22, 2003:** Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, the makers of the antidepressant **Effexor**, issued a warning to U.S. and Canadian doctors that use of this drug could cause **hostility**, suicidal ideation and **self-harm** in patients under the age of 18.<sup>21</sup>
22. **United States, May 2007:** The FDA published a warning on the psychostimulant **Desoxyn** stating that the drug could cause sudden death with pre-existing structural cardiac abnormalities or other serious heart problems, psychiatric adverse events including **aggression** and the **emergence of new psychotic or manic symptoms**, long-term suppression of growth, seizures, visual disturbance, as well as serious cardiovascular adverse event.<sup>22</sup>

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- <sup>2</sup> “WORSENING DEPRESSION AND SUICIDALITY IN PATIENTS BEING TREATED WITH ANTIDEPRESSANT MEDICATIONS,” FDA Public Health Advisory, 22 Mar. 2004.
- <sup>3</sup> “Methylphenidate,” U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), October 1995.
- <sup>4</sup> “Statement on Concerta and Methylphenidate for the June 30 PAC”, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), June 2005.
- <sup>5</sup> Kate Jaimet, “‘I’ve learned a lesson in the worst way possible’: What drove a loving father to kill his son?,” Ottawa Citizen, 27 Aug. 2006.
- <sup>6</sup> Jirina Vlk, “Health Canada advises Canadians of stronger warnings for SSRIs and other newer anti-depressants,” Health Canada, 2004-31, June 3, 2004.
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- <sup>8</sup> Commission of the European Communities Commission Decision concerning the placement on the market, under Article 21 of the Directive 2001/83/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, Brussels 19-VIII-2005, C (2205) 3256.
- <sup>9</sup> “Boxed Warning, Contraindications and strengthened Precautions for Methylphenidate,” Janssen-Cilag, February 2009.
- <sup>10</sup> “Use of antidepressants in children and adolescents,” The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) published an Adverse Drug Reactions Bulletin, Vol 23, No. 6, Dec. 2004, p. 22.
- <sup>11</sup> “Information for Healthcare Professionals: Varenicline (marketed as Chantix) and Bupropion (marketed as Zyban, Wellbutrin, and generics),” FDA, July 1, 2009.
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- <sup>13</sup> Adverse Drug Reactions Advisory Committee, Australian Adverse Drug Reactions Bulletin, Vol. 27, No. 6, December 2008.
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- <sup>15</sup> Jeffrey M. Dayno, M.D., “Dear Healthcare Professional,” Cephalon, September 2007.
- <sup>16</sup> “FDA Directs ADHD Drug Manufacturers to Notify Patients about Cardiovascular Adverse Events and Psychiatric Adverse Events,” FDA News, February 21, 2007.
- <sup>17</sup> “UPDATE 2-US FDA calls for new warnings on ADHD drugs”, Reuters, August 21, 2006.
- <sup>18</sup> “EU calls for tougher warnings on antidepressants for kids” News-Medical.net April 25, 2005.
- <sup>19</sup> “Antidepressant aggression concern,” BBC News, 21 Sept. 2004.
- <sup>20</sup> “European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products: Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products 20-22 April 2004” EMEA, The European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products, Press Release April 2004.
- <sup>21</sup> Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, “Dear Health Care Professional...” Health Canada, Health Products and Food Branch, August 22, 2003.
- <sup>22</sup> Food and Drug Administration (FDA), “Detailed View: Safety Labeling Changes Approved By FDA Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)”, FDA MedWatch, May 2007.

## II - Studies on Psychiatric Drugs and Violence

There have been 10 studies in four countries on psychiatric drug-induced violence, homicidal ideation/actions, aggression, mania/psychosis, and hostility. These are as follows:

1. **France, June 07, 2011:** A study published in the European Journal of Clinical Pharmacology found that "...**benzodiazepines** and [**antidepressants** that affect serotonin] are the main pharmacological classes able to induce **aggressive behavior**."<sup>1</sup>
2. **United States, December 01, 2010:** A study in PLoS One took the Food and Drug Administration's Adverse Event Reporting System data, and extracted all "serious adverse event" reports for drugs with 200 or more cases received from 2004 through September 2009. Of the 484 drugs identified, 31 drugs were disproportionately associated with **violence**. These drugs, accounting for 79% of all the violence cases, including **11 antidepressants, 6 sedative/hypnotics and 3 drugs for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder**. The specific cases of violence included: **homicide, physical assaults, cases indicating physical abuse, homicidal ideation, and cases described as violence-relates symptoms**.<sup>2</sup>
3. **United States, April 14, 2010:** A study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association concluded that some anti-anxiety drugs have a higher risk of suicidal acts/**violent deaths** than others. They also acknowledge that anti-anxiety drugs in general can have psychotropic effects, including **mood and behavior changes**.<sup>3</sup>
4. **United States, February 1, 2009:** The journal Pediatrics published a study that found spontaneous case reports of patients treated for ADHD with amphetamine/dextroamphetamine (**Adderall**), atomoxetine (**Strattera**), or Methylphenidate (**Ritalin/Concerta/Daytrana**) indicated a likely causal association between each of the drugs and treatment-emergent onset of signs and symptoms of **psychosis** or **mania**, notably hallucinations, in some patients. The authors concluded, "Patients and physicians should be aware that **psychosis** or **mania** arising during drug treatment of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder may represent adverse drug reactions."<sup>4</sup>
5. **United Kingdom, September 01, 2006:** A study published in Public Library of Science Medicine determined that **newer antidepressants** could increase the **risk of violence in people taking them**. They looked specifically at GlaxoSmithKline's **Paxil** and concluded the drug raises the **risk of severe violence** in some people.<sup>5</sup>
6. **United States, September 01, 2004:** A study in the journal Pediatrics revealed that 33% of the patients they studied that were exposed to Atomoxetine (**Strattera**) **exhibited** extreme irritability, **aggression, mania or hypomania [mild-mania]**.<sup>6</sup>
7. **United States, January 26, 2004:** Drug Safety Research issued a special report **on newer antidepressants** that concluded, "The higher than expected numbers of suicidal and **aggressive behaviors** observed in some clinical trials of **antidepressants** in children also can be seen in spontaneous adverse event .... The data show that suicidal/**aggressive**

**behaviors** are reported in both adults and children, but more than twice as often in children."<sup>7</sup>

8. **United States, January 01, 2001:** The Journal of Clinical Psychiatry published a study where the authors found that a significant proportion of psychiatric hospitalizations they reviewed were due to **antidepressant** associated **psychotic or manic symptoms**.<sup>8</sup>
9. **United States, July 01, 1997:** In a Journal of Clinical Psychiatry study, Dr. John Zajecka reported that discontinuation [withdrawal] symptoms after treatment with **Prozac** can cause **"aggressiveness and suicidal impulsivity."**<sup>9</sup>
10. **United Kingdom, December 01, 1995:** In the British journal The Lancet, Dr. Miki Bloch of the National Institute of Mental Health and colleagues gave a report on **patients who became suicidal and homicidal after stopping Paxil, including one man who was distraught over thoughts of harming "his own children."**<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Nadege Rouve, Haleh Bagheri, *et al.*, "Prescribed drugs and violence: a case/noncase study in the French Pharmacovigilance Database," European Journal of Clinical Pharmacology, June 7, 2011.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas J. Moore, Joseph Glenmullen, Curt D. Furbert, "Prescription Drugs Associated with Reports of Violence Towards Others," Public Library of Science ONE, Vol. 5, Iss. 12, December 2010.

<sup>3</sup> Elisabetta Patorno, et al., "Anticonvulsant Medications and the Risk of Suicide, Attempted Suicide, or Violent Death," Journal of the American Medical Association, Vol. 303, No. 14, April 14, 2010.

<sup>4</sup> Andrew D. Mosholder, MD, MPH, et al, "Hallucinations and Other Psychotic Symptoms Associated With the Use of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Drugs in Children," Pediatrics, Vol. 123, No. 2, pp. 611-616, February 2009.

<sup>5</sup> Healy M.D., David, Herxheimer, Andrew, Menkes, David B., "Antidepressants and Violence: Problems at the Interface of Medicine and Law," Public Library of Science Medicine, September 2006.

<sup>6</sup> Theodore A. Henderson, M.D., Ph.D. and Keith Hotman, M.D., "Aggression, Mania, and Hypomania Induction Associated with Atomoxetine," Pediatrics, Vol. 114, No. 3, September 2004.

<sup>7</sup> Thomas J. Moore, "Antidepressant Drugs and Suicidal/Aggressive Behaviors," Drug Safety Research - Special Report, Washington, D.C., January 26, 2004.

<sup>8</sup> Adrian Preda, MD., et al., "Antidepressant-Associated Mania and Psychosis Resulting in Psychiatric Admissions," Journal of Clinical Psychiatry, Vol. 62, No. 1, January 2001.

<sup>9</sup> J. Zajecka, K. Tracy, and S. Mitchell, "Discontinuation Symptoms After Treatment with Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors: A Literature Review," Journal of Clinical Psychiatry, Vol. 58, July 1997.

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### **III - School-Related Acts of Violence by Those On or Withdrawing from Psychiatric Drugs**

Between 1988 and Jan. 2013, there have been at least 34 school-related acts of violence committed by those taking or withdrawing from psychiatric drugs resulting in 166 wounded and 78 killed. (In other school shootings, information about their drug use was never made public—neither confirming nor refuting if they were under the influence of prescribed drugs.) The list includes not only mass shootings, but the use of knives, swords and bombs.

1. **Seattle, Washington – June 5, 2014:** 26-year-old Aaron Ybarra opened fire with a shotgun at Seattle Pacific University, killing one student and wounding two others. Ybarra planned to kill as many people as possible and then kill himself. In 2012, Ybarra reported that he had been prescribed the antidepressant Prozac and antipsychotic Risperdal. A report from his counselor in December of 2013 said that he was taking Prozac at the time and planned to continue to meet with his psychiatrist and therapist as needed.<sup>1</sup>
2. **Milford, Connecticut – April 25, 2014:** 16-year-old Chris Plaskon stabbed Maren Sanchez, also 16, to death in a stairwell at Jonathan Law High School after she turned down his prom invitation. According to classmates and a former close friend, Chris was taking drugs for ADHD.<sup>2</sup>
3. **Sparks, Nevada – October 21, 2013:** 12-year-old Jose Reyes opened fire at Sparks Middle School, killing a teacher and wounding two classmates before committing suicide. The investigation revealed that he had been seeing a psychiatrist and had a generic version of Prozac (fluoxetine) in his system at the time of death.<sup>3</sup>
4. **St. Louis, Missouri – January 15, 2013:** 34-year-old Sean Johnson walked onto the Stevens Institute of Business & Arts campus and shot the school's financial aid director once in the chest, then shot himself in the torso. Johnson had been taking prescribed drugs for an undisclosed mental illness.<sup>4</sup>
5. **Snohomish County, Washington – October 24, 2011:** A 15-year-old girl went to Snohomish High School where police alleged that she stabbed a girl as many as 25 times just before the start of school, and then stabbed another girl who tried to help her injured friend. Prior to the attack the girl had been taking “medication” and seeing a psychiatrist. Court documents said the girl was being treated for depression.<sup>5</sup>
6. **Myrtle Beach, South Carolina – September 21, 2011:** 14-year-old Christian Helms had two pipe bombs in his backpack, when he shot and wounded Socastee High School’s “resource” (police) officer. However the officer was able to stop the student before he could do anything further. Helms had been taking drugs for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and depression.<sup>6</sup>
7. **Planoise, France – December 13, 2010:** A 17-year-old held twenty pre-school children and their teacher hostage with two swords for hours at Charles Fourier preschool. The teen was

reported to be on “medication for depression.” Eventually, all the children and the teacher were released safely.<sup>7</sup>

8. **Huntsville, Alabama – February 5, 2010:** 15-year-old Hammad Memon shot and killed Discover Middle School student Todd Brown. Memon had a history of being treated for ADHD and depression. He was taking the antidepressant Zoloft and “other drugs for the conditions.” He had also been seeing a psychiatrist and psychologist.<sup>8</sup>
9. **Kauhajoki, Finland – September 23, 2008:** 22-year-old culinary student Matti Saari shot and killed 9 students and a teacher, and wounded another student, before killing himself. Saari was taking an SSRI and a benzodiazapine. He was also seeing a psychologist.<sup>9</sup>
10. **Fresno, California – April 24, 2008:** 17-year-old Jesus "Jesse" Carrizales attacked an officer at Fresno high school, hitting him in the head with a baseball bat. After knocking the officer down, the officer shot Carrizales in self-defense, killing him. Carrizales had been prescribed Lexapro and Geodon, and his autopsy showed that he had a high dose of the antidepressant Lexapro in his blood that could have caused him to be paranoid, according to the coroner.<sup>10</sup>
11. **Dekalb, Illinois – February 14, 2008:** 27-year-old Steven Kazmierczak shot and killed five people and wounded 21 others before killing himself in a Northern Illinois University auditorium. According to his girlfriend, he had recently been taking Prozac, Xanax and Ambien. Toxicology results showed that he still had trace amount of Xanax in his system. He had been seeing a psychiatrist.<sup>11</sup>
12. **Jokela, Finland – November 7, 2007:** 18-year-old Finnish gunman Pekka-Eric Auvinen shot and killed eight people and wounded a dozen more at Jokela High School in southern Finland, before committing suicide. He had been taking antidepressants.<sup>12</sup>
13. **Texas – November 7, 2007:** 17-year-old Felicia McMillan returned to her former Robert E. Lee High School campus and stabbed a male student and wounded the principle with a knife. McMillan had been on drugs for depression, and had just taken them the night before the incident.<sup>13</sup>
14. **Cleveland, Ohio – October 10, 2007:** 14-year-old Asa Coon stormed through his school with a gun in each hand, shooting and wounding four before taking his own life. Court records show Coon had been placed on the antidepressant Trazodone.<sup>14</sup>
15. **Sudbury, Massachusetts – January 19, 2007:** 16-year-old John Odgren stabbed another student with a large kitchen knife in a boy's bathroom at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. In court, his father testified that Odgren was prescribed the drug Ritalin.<sup>15</sup>
16. **North Vernon, Indiana – December 4, 2006:** 16-year-old Travis Roberson stabbed another Jennings County High School student in the neck, nearly severing an artery. Roberson was in withdrawal from Wellbutrin, which he had stopped taking days before the attack.<sup>16</sup>

17. **Hillsborough, North Carolina – August 30, 2006:** 19-year-old Alvaro Rafael Castillo shot and killed his father, then drove to Orange High School where he opened fire. Two students were injured in the shooting, which ended when school personnel tackled him. His mother said he was on drugs for depression.<sup>17</sup>
18. **Chapel Hill, North Carolina – April 2006:** 17-year-old William Barrett Foster took a shotgun to school and took a teacher and a fellow student hostage at East Chapel Hill High School. After being talked out of shooting the hostages, Foster fired two shots through a classroom window before fleeing the school on foot. Foster's father testified that his son had stopped taking his antidepressants and antipsychotic drugs without telling him.<sup>18</sup>
19. **Red Lake, Minnesota – March 21, 2005:** 16-year-old Jeff Weise, on Prozac, shot and killed his grandparents, then went to his school on the Red Lake Indian Reservation where he shot dead 5 students, a security guard, and a teacher, and wounded 7 before killing himself.<sup>19</sup>
20. **Greenbush, New York – February 2004:** 16-year-old Jon Romano strolled into his high school in east Greenbush and opened fire with a shotgun. Special education teacher Michael Bennett was hit in the leg. Romano had been taking “medication for depression”. He had previously seen a psychiatrist.<sup>20</sup>
21. **Ikeda, Japan – June 8, 2001:** 37-year-old Mamoru Takuma, wielding a 6-inch knife, slipped into an elementary school and stabbed eight first- and second-graders to death while wounding at least 15 other pupils and teachers. He then turned the knife on himself but suffered only superficial wounds. He later told interrogators that before the attack he had taken 10 times his normal dose of antidepressants.<sup>21</sup>
22. **Wahluke, Washington – April 10, 2001:** Sixteen-year-old Cory Baadsgaard took a rifle to his high school and held 23 classmates and a teacher hostage. He had been taking the antidepressants Effexor and Paxil. Baadsgaard said he had no memory of the incident.<sup>22</sup>
23. **El Cajon, California – March 22, 2001:** 18-year-old Jason Hoffman, on the antidepressants Celexa and Effexor, opened fire on his classmates, wounding three students and two teachers at Granite Hills High School. He had been seeing a psychiatrist before the shooting.<sup>23</sup>
24. **Williamsport, Pennsylvania – March 7, 2001:** 14-year-old Elizabeth Bush was taking the antidepressant Prozac when she shot at fellow students, wounding one.<sup>24</sup>
25. **Red Lion, Pennsylvania – February 2, 2001:** 56-year-old William Michael Stankewicz entered North Hopewell-Winterstown Elementary School with a machete, leaving three adults and 11 children injured. Stankewicz was taking four different drugs for depression and anxiety weeks before the attacks.<sup>25</sup>
26. **Oxnard, California – January 2001:** 17-year-old Richard Lopez went to Hueneme High School with a gun and shot twice at a car in the school's parking lot before taking a female student hostage. Lopez was eventually killed by a SWAT officer. He had been prescribed Prozac, Paxil and “drugs that helped him go to sleep.”<sup>26</sup>

27. **Conyers, Georgia – May 20, 1999:** 15-year-old T.J. Solomon was being treated with the stimulant Ritalin when he opened fire on and wounded six of his classmates.<sup>27</sup>
28. **Columbine, Colorado – April 20, 1999:** 18-year-old Eric Harris and his accomplice, Dylan Klebold, killed 12 students and a teacher and wounded 26 others before killing themselves. Harris was on the antidepressant Luvox. Klebold's medical records remain sealed. Both shooters had been in anger-management classes and had undergone counseling. Harris had been seeing a psychiatrist before the shooting.<sup>28</sup>
29. **Notus, Idaho – April 16, 1999:** 15-year-old Shawn Cooper fired two shotgun rounds in his school, narrowly missing students. He was taking a prescribed antidepressant and Ritalin.<sup>29</sup>
30. **Springfield, Oregon – May 21, 1998:** 15-year-old Kip Kinkel murdered his parents and then proceeded to school where he opened fire on students in the cafeteria, killing two and wounding 25. Kinkel had been taking the antidepressant Prozac. Kinkel had been attending "anger control classes" and was under the care of a psychologist.<sup>30</sup>
31. **Blackville, South Carolina – October 12, 1995:** 15-year-old Toby R. Sincino slipped into the Blackville-Hilda High School's rear entrance, where he shot two Blackville-Hilda High School teachers, killing one. Then Toby killed himself moments later. His aunt, Carolyn McCreary, said he had been undergoing counseling with the Department of Mental Health and was taking Zoloft for emotional problems.<sup>31</sup>
32. **Chelsea, Michigan – December 17, 1993:** 39-year-old chemistry teacher Stephen Leith, facing a disciplinary matter at Chelsea High School, shot Superintendent Joseph Piasecki to death, shot Principal Ron Mead in the leg, and slightly wounded journalism teacher Phil Jones. Leith was taking Prozac and had been seeing a psychiatrist.<sup>32</sup>
33. **Houston, Texas – September 18, 1992:** 44-year-old Calvin Charles Bell, reportedly upset about his second-grader's progress report, appeared in the principal's office of Piney Point Elementary School. Bell fired a gun in the school, and eventually wounded two officers before surrendering. Relatives told police that Bell was an unemployed Vietnam veteran and had been taking antidepressants.<sup>33</sup>
34. **Winnetka, Illinois – 20 May 1988:** 30-year-old Laurie Wasserman Dann walked into a second grade classroom at Hubbard Woods School in Winnetka, Illinois carrying three pistols and began shooting children, killing an eight-year-old boy, and wounding five others before fleeing. She entered a nearby house where she shot and wounded a 20-year-old man before killing herself. Dann had been seeing a psychiatrist and subsequent blood tests revealed that at the time of the killings, she was taking the antidepressant Anafranil.<sup>34</sup>

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## **IV - Other Acts of Violence Committed By Those Taking, or Withdrawing From, Psychiatric Drugs**

School-related acts of violence aren't the only cases commonly found to be under the influence of psychiatric drugs. There are 18 other recent acts of senseless violence committed by individuals taking or withdrawing from psychiatric drugs resulting in an additional 76 dead and 61 wounded.

1. **Santa Barbara, California – May 23, 2014:** 22-year old Elliot Rodger stabbed his two roommates to death at the apartment he shared with them along with a third person who was visiting. He then then drove to a University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB) sorority house where he shot three women, killing two of them. Driving again, he exchanged fire with deputies, hit a bicyclist, fired on other people in multiple locations and then killed himself. In all, he killed 6 and wounded 13 others before taking his own life. In his own 137-page document outlining his plans Rodgers explains that he'll shoot himself in the head and "I will quickly swallow all of the Xanax and Vicodin pills I have left..." He explains that if the bullets don't kill him, the mixture of pills will.<sup>1</sup>
2. **Fort Hood, TX – April 2, 2014:** Specialist Ivan Lopez had been prescribed Ambien, antidepressants and other medications to treat anxiety and depression when opened fire at Fort Hood military base, killing three people, wounding 16 others and then taking his own life. He had also been examined by a psychiatrist within the month prior and was being evaluated for PTSD.<sup>2</sup>
3. **Washington, DC – September 16, 2013:** Aaron Alexis, a Navy contractor, opened fire inside a building at the Washington Navy Yard, killing 12 and wounding eight others before he was killed by police. Alexis had received prescriptions from two Veterans Administration hospitals in August 2013 for the antidepressant Trazodone.<sup>3</sup>
4. **Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania – March 8, 2012:** 30-year-old John Shick, former patient of University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) and former student at nearby Duquesne University, shot and killed one and injured six inside UPMC's Western Psychiatrist Institute. Nine antidepressants were identified among the drugs police found in Shick's apartment.<sup>4</sup>
5. **Seal Beach, California – October 12, 2011:** Scott DeKraai, a harbor tugboat worker, entered the hair salon where his ex-wife worked, killing her and seven others and injuring one. At DeKraai's initial hearing, his attorney indicated to the judge that DeKraai was prescribed the antidepressant Trazodone and the "mood stabilizer" Topamax.<sup>5</sup>
6. **Afghanistan – October 17, 2010:** Indiana soldier David Lawrence was taking the two antidepressants – Trazodone and Zoloft – when he killed a top Taliban commander by shooting him in the face in a prison cell. During questioning, David said he imagined all the people he knew being blown up and blacked out before the shooting.<sup>6</sup>

7. **Newport, Maine – October 26, 2009:** Perley Goodrich Jr. beat his mother and then shot his father dead shortly after being injected with Trazodone in a psychiatric hospital. Goodrich had complained that he didn't want to take the medication because it made him feel "violent."<sup>7</sup>
8. **Lakeland, Florida – May 3, 2009:** Toxicology test results showed that 34-year-old Troy Bellar was on Tegretol, a drug prescribed for "bi-polar disorder," when he shot and killed his wife and two of his three children in their home before killing himself.<sup>8</sup>
9. **Granberry Crossing, Alabama – April 26, 2009:** 53-year-old Fred B. Davis shot and killed a police officer and wounded a sheriff's deputy who had responded to a call that Davis had threatened a neighbor with a gun. Prescription drug bottles found at the scene showed that Davis was prescribed the antipsychotic drug Geodon.<sup>9</sup>
10. **Middletown, Maryland – April 17, 2009:** Christopher Wood shot and killed his wife, three small children and himself inside their home. Toxicology test results verified that Wood had been taking the antidepressants Bupropion (Wellbutrin), Amitriptyline (Elavil) & Nortriptyline (Pamelor) and the anti-anxiety drugs Zolipdem (Ambien) & Alprazolam (Xanax).<sup>10</sup>
11. **Concord, California – January 11, 2009:** Jason Montes, 33, shot and killed his wife and then himself at home. Montes had earlier begun taking the antidepressant Prozac for depression related to his impending divorce and a recent bankruptcy.<sup>11</sup>
12. **Little Rock, Arkansas – August 14, 2008:** Less than 48 hours after Timothy Johnson shot and killed Arkansas Democratic Party Chairman Bill Gwatney, the Little Rock Police declared they were investigating shooter's use of the antidepressant Effexor, which was found in Johnson's house. A Little Rock city police report later stated that Johnson "was on an antidepressant and that the drug may have played a part in his 'irrational and violent behavior.'"<sup>12</sup>
13. **Omaha, Nebraska – December 5, 2007:** 19-year-old Robert Hawkins killed eight people and wounded five before committing suicide in an Omaha mall. Autopsy results confirmed he was under the influence of the "anti-anxiety" drug Valium.<sup>13</sup>
14. **Fallujah, Iraq – December 31, 2006:** Marine Lance Cpl. Delano Holmes killed Iraqi soldier Mutather Jasem Muhammed Hassin by stabbing him 40 times with a combat knife, with some of the wounds piercing his spine. Holmes had been prescribed Trazodone (an antidepressant), Ambien and Valium (both anti-anxiety drugs).<sup>14</sup>
15. **North Meridian, Florida – July 8, 2003:** Doug Williams killed five and wounded nine of his fellow Lockheed Martin employees before killing himself. Williams was reportedly taking two antidepressants, Zoloft and Celexa, for depression after a failed marriage.<sup>15</sup>
16. **Wakefield, Massachusetts – December 26, 2000:** 42-year-old computer technician Michael McDermott had been taking three antidepressants, Paxil, Prozac and Desyrel,

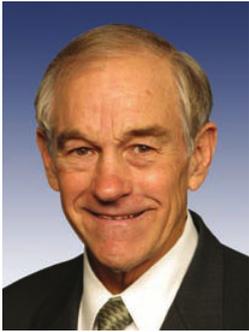
when he hunted down employees with a shotgun and a rifle in the accounting and human resources offices where he worked, killing seven.<sup>16</sup>

17. **Buffalo, New York - May 1, 1998:** 37-year-old Juan Roman, an Erie County sheriff's deputy, pursued his estranged wife into their children's elementary school and shot her dead, and a school aide was hit in the elbow. Roman was taking antidepressants and seeing a psychiatrist.<sup>17</sup>
18. **St. Petersburg, FL - May 25, 1992:** 30-year-old David Doyle Rittenhouse shot and killed a man that went on a date with his wife. Rittenhouse said he was taking a drug somewhat similar to the controversial drug Prozac, and that the drug impeded his perception abilities and he thought the man had raped his wife, though he said "He knows it didn't happen that way - but he said that is what was in his mind."<sup>18</sup>

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## V - People Who've Spoken Out About Psychiatric Drugs and Violence



**Congressman Ron Paul:** In a speech given on March 8, 2013, Ron Paul stated, "I have children and grandchildren, I'm a physician, and I think drugs are very, very dangerous. But, if you compare the so-called illegal drugs to prescription drugs, a lot more people die from the prescription drug abuse. Right now we're suffering from an epidemic of suicide in some of our veterans, and **we have a lot of violence in our schools and somebody just did a study in which they took the last ten episodes of violence where young people went and took guns and irrationally shot people, all ten of them were on psychotropic drugs. So this is a different problem than some people might think.**"



**Michael Moore**, author, director and producer of *Bowling for Columbine*, was interviewed where he calls for a federal investigation into the link between prescribed drugs and mass shootings such as the 1999 Columbine massacre. In the interview he said: "**In *Bowling for Columbine*, we never really came up with the answer in terms of why this happened. I think we did a good job of exposing all the reasons that were given, were a bunch of BS. You know Marilyn Manson, caused them to do it, this or that caused them to do it and none of it really made any sense. That's why I believe there should be an investigation in terms of what pharmaceuticals, prescribed pharmaceuticals, these kids were on and perhaps it would just be shocking, I think, to the millions of parents who prescribed this for their kids. If it was finally explained to them that this was the case, that this perhaps occurred for no other reason other than because of these prescriptions.**

"Imagine what that would do, imagine how people would totally rethink things. Grasping for every little straw they can to explain why something like Columbine happens, when in fact it may be nothing more than this. How else do you explain two otherwise decent kids, very smart, no history of violence to other kids in the school? Why them? Why did this happen? It's an extremely legitimate question to pose and it demands an investigation.

"The Eli Lilly corporation, pharmaceutical company, for nearly fifteen years covered up their own internal investigation that showed that anyone on Prozac is twelve-times more likely to attempt suicide than those using other antidepressants—not twelve-times more than the average population—twelve-times more than those already on other antidepressants. This is a criminal act and I want to know why these criminals are still walking the streets."

This Michael Moore interview can be watched here:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04UqzYODGNs&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04UqzYODGNs&feature=player_embedded)



**David Kupelian** is an award-winning journalist, managing editor of WND (WorldNetDaily) and editor of *Whistleblower* magazine. A widely read online columnist, he is also the best-selling author of *The Marketing of Evil* and *How Evil Works*.

On January 6, 2013, Kupelian published, "The Giant, Gaping hole in Sandy Hook Reporting—what psychiatric medications shooter may have been taking." Kupelian questions, "But where, I'd like to ask my colleagues in the media, is the reporting

about the psychiatric medications the perpetrator – who had been under treatment for mental-health problems – may have been taking?” He continues, "It has been more than three weeks since the shooting. We know all about the guns he used, but what 'medication' may he have used? ... So, what is the truth? Where is the journalistic curiosity? Where is the follow-up? Where is the police report, the medical examiner's report, the interviews with his doctor and others?"

WND.com gets an average of 2.5 million unique visits to it's website each month.

His page on WND.com is: <http://www.wnd.com/author/dkupelian/>



**Sanjay Gupta**, neurosurgeon and chief medical correspondent on CNN, made the following statement on CNN on December 18, 2012 after the Newtown shooting:

“We still don’t know much about the shooter who lived in this home. But there is something else to consider: What medications if any he was on? I’m specifically talking about antidepressants. If you look at the studies of other shootings like this that have happened, medications like this were a common factor.... When someone starts these medications and when someone stops could lead to increased impulsivity and decreased judgment, and making someone out of touch. None of this is an excuse and it’s never just one thing. None of these behaviors will fully predict or explain why. But soon again there will be hindsight that might just help prevent another tragedy. It’s worth pointing out over a seven-year period there were 11,000 episodes of violence related to drug side effects. If there was a death involved, often it was the individual of himself or herself, a suicide.”



**Tom Ridge**, former Secretary of Homeland Security was interviewed on Fox News on December 16, 2012. Ridge was also on the Virginia Tech Review Panel. In discussing flawed efforts to intervene in the lives of potentially violent youth, Ridge observed during the interview:

“Or we put them on severe medications. One of the students in the Columbine shooting was on severe medication and apparently there’s analysis that it probably even contributed to his destructive aggressive behavior.”



**Dr. David Healy** is an internationally respected psychiatrist, psychopharmacologist, scientist, and author. A professor of Psychiatry in Wales, Healy studied medicine in Dublin, and at Cambridge University. He is a former Secretary of the British Association for Psychopharmacology, and has authored more than 150 peer-reviewed articles, 200 other pieces, and 20 books, including *The Antidepressant Era* and *The Creation of Psychopharmacology* from Harvard University Press, *The Psychopharmacologists Volumes 1-3* and *Let Them Eat Prozac* from New York University Press, and *Mania* from Johns Hopkins University Press.

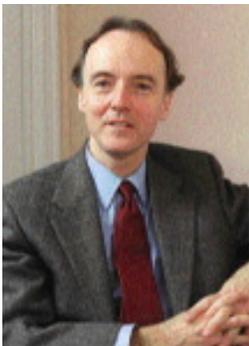
Healy has been involved as an expert witness in homicide and suicide trials involving psychotropic drugs, and in bringing problems with these drugs to the attention of American and British regulators, as well raising awareness of how pharmaceutical companies sell drugs by marketing diseases and co-opting academic opinion-leaders, ghost-writing their articles.

**Published Study on Psychiatric Drugs and Violence:** Healy and two other researchers published a study in the September 2006 issue of the journal *Public Library of Science Medicine* that determined that **SSRI antidepressants could increase the risk of violence in people taking them.** The study looked specifically at GlaxoSmithKline's Paxil and concluded the drug raises the risk of severe violence in some people. The study states: "In paroxetine clinical trials, aggression and violence were commonly coded under the rubric of hostility. This coding term includes homicide, homicidal acts, and homicidal ideation as well as aggressive events and 'conduct disorders.'..."

David Healy has criticized pharmaceutical companies that have made billions of dollars marketing Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors, known as SSRIs. **Psychotropic drugs "prescribed for school children cause violent behavior," Healy stated.**

**Healey has cautioned that there is a very high correlation between mass shootings and use of the drugs. "When roughly nine out of every 10 cases in these school shootings and mass shootings involve these drugs being prescribed, then at least a significant proportion of these cases were either caused by the drugs or the drugs made a significant contribution to the problem," he said.**

His website is: <http://davidhealy.org/>



**Joseph Glenmullen** is a graduate of Harvard Medical School, and is a Clinical Instructor in Psychiatry at Harvard Law School Health Services, and in private practice in Harvard Square. He is Board Certified in Psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. He is the author of two books on the side effects of antidepressants: *Prozac Backlash: Overcoming the Dangers of Prozac, Zoloft, Paxil, and Other Antidepressants with Safe, Effective Alternatives* published in 2000 by Simon & Schuster and *The Antidepressant Withdrawal, Dependence, and "Addiction"* published by Simon & Schuster's Free Press division in January 2005.

Glenmullen testified at the FDA's February 2004 and December 2006 hearings on antidepressant-induced suicidality, and in the last 4 years has given expert testimony in over two-dozen state and federal cases regarding antidepressants.

Glenmullen has been interviewed on numerous national television and radio shows including NBC's The Today Show, ABC News' 20/20, ABC's Good Morning America, ABC's World News Tonight, ABC's Primetime Live, CNN, Fox News, PBS, Court TV, and National Public Radio for his expertise on antidepressants.

**Published Study on Psychiatric Drugs and Violence:** Glenmullen co-authored a study published in the December 15, 2010, *PloS One*, where the researchers used 2004 to 2009 data from the FDA Adverse Event Reporting System and extracted all "serious adverse event" reports for drugs with 200 or more. **Of the 484 drugs identified, 31 drugs were disproportionately associated with violence. These drugs, accounting for 79% of all the violence cases, including 11 antidepressants, 6 sedative/hypnotics and 3 drugs for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.** The specific cases of violence included: homicide, physical assaults, cases indicating physical abuse, homicidal ideation, and cases described as violence-relates symptoms.

**Glenmullen argues antidepressants can cause both suicidal and homicidal behavior. "These really are terrible tragedies, but antidepressants can do this to people."**

His website is: <http://www.drjglenmullen.com/>



**Peter R. Breggin, M.D.**, conducts a private practice of psychiatry in Ithaca, New York. He also does consultations in the field of clinical psychopharmacology and often acts as a medical expert in criminal, malpractice and product liability suits. Before moving to Ithaca in November 2002 he was in practice for nearly thirty-five years in Washington, DC and Bethesda, Maryland. He has written dozens of scientific articles and many professional books, including *Medication Madness: The Role of Psychiatric Drugs in Cases of Violence, Suicide and Crime* (2008), and is on the editorial board of several journals.

Dr. Breggin's background includes Harvard College, Case Western Reserve Medical School, a one-year internship and a three-year residency in psychiatry, including a teaching fellowship at Harvard Medical School. After his training, he accepted a two-year staff appointment at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). He has taught at several universities, including a faculty appointment to the Johns Hopkins University Department of Counseling and an appointment as Visiting Scholar at SUNY Oswego in the Department of Counseling and Psychological Services in 2007-2008. He now teaches as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Counseling and Psychological Services at SUNY Oswego.

As a medical expert in criminal, malpractice and product liability suits, often involving adverse drug effects such as suicide, violence, brain injury, and death, Breggin began testifying in the early 1970s and has been qualified in court 85 times or more since 1987. **As an example, in November 2012 a jury in the Supreme Court of the State of New York awarded \$1.5 million malpractice verdict to the family of a man who committed suicide while taking psychiatric drugs, including antidepressants. Breggin was the medical expert for the plaintiffs. In addition, on September 16, 2011, based on Dr. Breggin's report and testimony, a Winnipeg provincial judge concluded that Prozac caused a sixteen-year-old boy to knife a friend to death.**

**Published Study on Psychiatric Drugs and Violence:** Breggin published a study in *International Journal of Risk & Safety in Medicine* in 2003, which stated, **"There are many reports and studies confirming that SSRI antidepressants can cause violence, suicide, mania and other forms of psychotic and bizarre behavior."**

His website is: <http://www.breggin.com/>



**Dr. Stefan Kruszewski** is a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Medical School. He completed post-doctoral work at Harvard Affiliate Hospitals, Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Duke University and Texas Christian University. His recent academic affiliation included a five-year appointment as Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Penn State College of Medicine (1999-2004). Previously, he served as Associate Medical Director of the Physicians' Health Programs of the Foundation of the Pennsylvania Medical Society. He has been board certified in general psychiatry as well as in the subspecialties of geriatric, adolescent and addiction psychiatry, and by the American Board of Addiction Medicine, in addiction medicine.

Dr. Kruszewski is an expert in addictive diseases and the scientific basis that underscores certain neuropsychiatric drugs, including drugs of abuse, antipsychotics, anticonvulsants, mood stabilizers and stimulants. His research articles, replies, letters and editorials have appeared in numerous peer-reviewed journals, including: *New England Journal of Medicine*, *British Medical Journal*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *American Journal of Psychiatry*, and many others.

**Whistleblower:** Dr. Kruszewski is also a whistleblower. After he reported systemic physical and pharmaceutical abuses and deaths of Pennsylvania children and adults to his superiors at the Department of Public Welfare, Bureau of Program Integrity, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, (in his capacity as psychiatric consultant to them), Dr. Kruszewski was fired. He decided to speak out about his findings as well as file a Federal Lawsuit in Middle District of Pennsylvania. That successfully settled in July of 2007. Currently, Dr. Kruszewski works in Harrisburg as a clinician and CEO of his own company. He has been a thrice successful qui tam relator. In the past two years, working with the U.S. Department of Justice and plaintiff attorneys in Philadelphia, PA, Dallas, TX and Wilmington, DE, he has settled actions against Southwood Psychiatric Facility, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for sub par medical oversight; in Geodon/Pfizer Inc., in regards to off-label prescribing and scientific misrepresentations and, most recently, in Seroquel/AstraZeneca for off-label promotion and scientific misrepresentations.

**In a 2009 trial, in which Kruszewski testified as a defense expert, he stated that, "individuals who take Zoloft [an antidepressant] could experience certain side effects and that includes violent acting out." He also stated, "We've got thousands of reports over many years now since the introduction of Zoloft to the marketplace, that there is a linkage between violence and agitation problems associated with discontinuation of the drug."**

His website is: <http://www.spkmd.com/>

**For more information visit:**

<http://www.cchrnt.org>