

Oppression & Justice (Fall 2013)

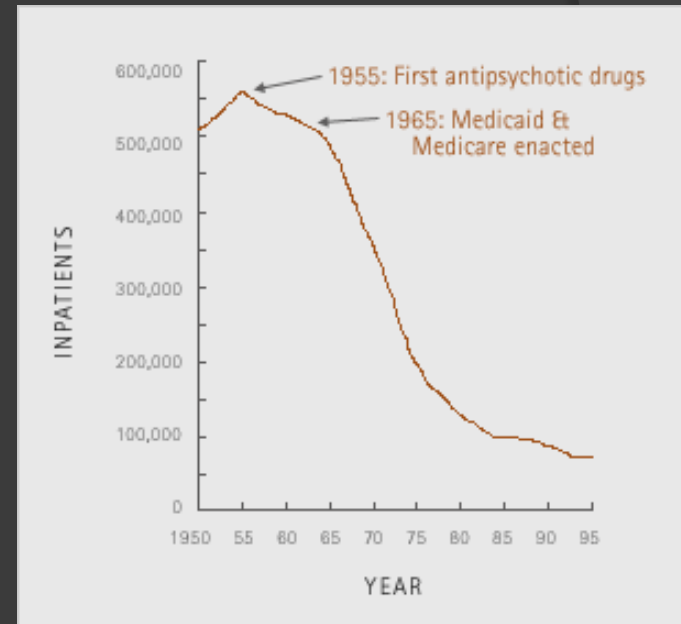
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EMPOWERMENT & PSYCHIATRIC DISABILITY



FURTHER BACKGROUND

- ◎ *1 in 4 adults have a diagnosable mental disorder*
 - *1 in 17 adults are diagnosed with serious mental illnesses*
 - *10% (appx) of children and adolescents are diagnosed with serious mental illnesses*
- ◎ *#1 cause of disability in North America*
- ◎ *According to NAMI, 70-90% of individuals will have symptom reduction through pharmacological and psychosocial treatments and supports*



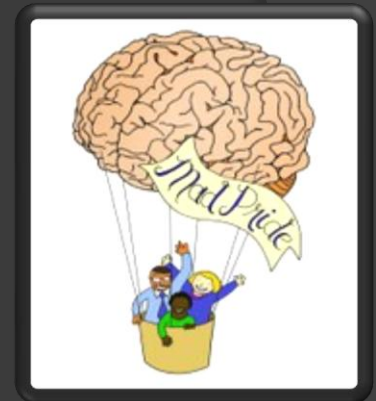
Process of Deinstitutionalization

FURTHER BACKGROUND

- ◎ *In a recent cross-country study*, more than 1/3 of patients who are involuntarily hospitalized will experience at least one type of coercive measure, often through chemical or physical restraint.
- ◎ *In a 2005 study, 1/3 of electroconvulsive therapy patients reported feeling coerced into decision.*
 - *According to the FDA, pain, nausea, general functional disability, temporary losses in cognition, and memory defects are common side effects of ECT.*
- ◎ *Many states in the U.S. are considering lowering the bar for involuntary commitment for the sake of public safety, but only 4% are involved in violent crime, and those labeled as mentally ill are 11x more likely to be the victims of violent crime.*

MINDFREEDOM CAMPAIGNS

- ◎ *I Got Better: stories of recovery*
- ◎ *Global Campaign Committee: empowerment handbooks, UN human rights work*
- ◎ *Choice in Mental Health Care: champion humane, safe, effective alternatives*
- ◎ *Mad Pride: events to celebrate “creative maladjustment”*
- ◎ *Boycott Normal: peaceful public protests of the DSM-5*



TESTIMONIES

“If you are diagnosed with schizophrenia, they talk with you like you are not there. They talk about you but not with you, but you have to hear it” ([Beate Braun](#), 2002).



TESTIMONIES



“The hospital, instead of ending my trauma, compounded it exponentially. I was mentally abused every day during my second hospitalization. They were unrelenting in constantly trying to force their drugs and their notions of mental illness on me. Every day they brought the drugs to me, even though every day I said I would not take them and that they would have to take me to court if they expected me to take them. [...] The total denial of who I am and what I have accomplished in my life was abusive. To be told that other people know better than me about what is going on in my head was abusive. The abuse never stopped” ([Victoria D. Gaines](#), 2001).

◎ *In Deegan's narrative?*

- *Loss/fracturing of identity, totalizing of identity (reduction to illness), loss of valued roles/imagined future*
- *Loss of community, lack of empathy and support*
- *Internalized stigma, hopelessness*
- *"dignity of risk and the right to failure have been taken from you" (361)*

◎ *In MFI Personal Stories?*

- *Communal abandonment, complicity of others in oppression*
- *Unchecked power, paternalism*
- *Gifts, flourishing thanks to "illness" (expanded notions of well-being, functioning)*

◎ *In MFI News?*

- *Bringing to light misperceptions about violence, capacity (and what this does to reinforce stereotypes and perpetuate sanist attitudes)*
- *Expanding freedoms, choice; enabling autonomy and self-definition*

References

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- ◉ “The Numbers Count: Mental Disorders in America”, NIMH:
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- ◉ “Mental Illness”, NAMI:
http://www.nami.org/template.cfm?section=about_mental_illness
- ◉ 2011 FDA Committee on ECT:
<http://www.fda.gov/AdvisoryCommittees/CommitteesMeetingMaterials/MedicalDevices/MedicalDevicesAdvisoryCommittee/NeurologicalDevicesPanel/ucm124779.htm>
- ◉ Rose, Diana S. et al. “Information, Consent and Perceived Coercion: Patients’ Perspectives on Electroconvulsive Therapy.” *British Journal of Psychiatry* 186 (2005): 54-59.

**HAVE A WONDERFUL
WINTER BREAK!**

