

# Will the Backlash Against DSM-5 be the Downward Tipping Point for International ADHD Prescribing Rates?\*

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**SUMMARY:** *The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (5)* continues the long-term trend of lowering the diagnostic threshold for ADHD. Significant opposition from amongst the psychiatric and psychological professions, the media and the public and growing discomfort with spiraling ADHD prescribing rates and resultant iatrogenic harm may be the catalyst for significant downturn in international ADHD prescribing rates.

**KEY WORDS:** ADHD, prescribing rates, iatrogenic harm, *DSM*.

There is reason to hope that the exponential growth in Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) diagnosing and prescribing rates, that began in the 1990s and continues today, may be about to be reversed. Simultaneous changes are creating fertile ground for a sustained and effective backlash against the ADHD Industry.

First, there is a growing discomfort with spiraling ADHD prescribing rates and resultant iatrogenic harm amongst the psychiatric and psychological professions, the media and the public. Second, the draft changes to the ADHD diagnostic criteria in the American Psychiatric Association's last edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (*DSM-5*) are blatant disease mongering and invite dissent. Third, there is a significant organised backlash from within the psychiatric and psychological establishment against a number of new disorders and the expanded disorders, (not just ADHD) in *DSM-5*.

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