

Classification of mental disorders

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Main article: [Mental disorder](#)

The **classification of mental disorders**, also known as psychiatric nosology or taxonomy, is a key aspect of [psychiatry](#) and other [mental health professions](#) and an important issue for people who may be diagnosed. There are currently two widely established [systems](#) for classifying [mental disorders](#)—Chapter V of the [International Classification of Diseases \(ICD-10\)](#) produced by the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) and the [Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders \(DSM-5\)](#) produced by the [American Psychiatric Association \(APA\)](#). Both list categories of disorders thought to be distinct types, and have deliberately converged their codes in recent revisions so that the manuals are often broadly comparable, although significant differences remain. Other classification schemes may be in use more locally, for example the [Chinese Classification of Mental Disorders](#). Other manuals have some limited use by those of alternative theoretical persuasions, such as the [Psychodynamic Diagnostic Manual](#).

The widely used DSM and ICD classifications employ [operational definitions](#).^[1] There is a significant scientific debate about the relative [validity](#) of a "categorical" versus a "dimensional" system of classification, as well as significant controversy about the role of science and values in classification schemes and the professional, legal and social uses to which they are put.