MODULE 3 – STANDARD TEXTS
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There are many diagnostic labels and authoritative texts used in child and adolescent behavioral health. Unfortunately, these are in constant flux, and there's a lack of standardization across texts, across studies, and across researchers. However, we are going to discuss three texts that are frequently used is foundational diagnostic tools. The important point about foundation texts is there is a standard frame of reference as to what constitutes a disease, how it is described, how it fits within a larger classification of diseases, and how it will be coded so statistics on the disease are consistent and have a high degree of accuracy.

These texts also play an important role in determining what services or supports may be required from a case management or rehabilitation perspective. Think about that point as we discuss the international and national standards used in population health surveillance-- the World Health Organization, also known as the WHO, Family of International Classifications and the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition.

The World Health Organization has a set of resources knows as the WHO Family of International Classifications, and these are the two resources in the Family-- the International Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death published by the World Health Organization as a standard diagnostic tool for epidemiology, health management, and clinical diagnoses. Since it is used to code surveillance data in the monitoring and prevalence of diseases and other health problems, the ICD helps classify diseases and other health problems that are recorded on all kinds of health and vital records and acts as a decision-making tool for reimbursement and resource-allocation decision making by countries.

Chapter Five in the ICD is mental and behavioral disorders, which is classed in the area 500 to 599. Chapter Five is sub-divided into a series of classifications, ranging from organic to unspecified-- as you can see on the left-hand side of the screen. On the graphic on the right, you can see the narrative that begins to describe the disorders classed under the larger term of mood or affective disorders.

The International Classification of Functioning Disability and Health, known most commonly as ICF, is a classification of health and health-related domains. The ICF is the WHO framework for measuring health and disability at both individual and population levels. It is considered the international standard for describing and measuring health and disability. It looks at level functioning and disability across four areas-- body functions, body structures, activities and participation, and environmental factors.

This is useful to determine what available supports and services may be necessary to assist an individual with a specific disorder to reach his or her full potential, based upon his or her level of functioning and disability as he or she ages. Of particular interest to us are the two sections on activities and participation and environmental factors.

The last text we'll look at is the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, which is the standard classification of mental disorders used by mental health professionals in the United States. It contains a listing of diagnostic criteria for every psychiatric disorder recognized by the US health and behavioral health care systems. Currently in its fifth edition, the DSM is used in both clinical settings-- such as outpatient, inpatient, partial hospital, consultation liaison, clinic, private practice, and primary care-- and within community populations.

In addition to supplying detailed descriptions of diagnostic criteria, the DSM is also a necessary tool for collecting and communicating accurate public health statistics about the diagnosis of mental disorders. The DSM-V was harmonized with the ICD so there's more continuity in diagnostic criteria and coding for disorders.