



The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, fifth edition, text revision (DSM-5-TR), like DSM-5, features a lifespan approach to mental health. Some of the diagnostic criteria were updated in DSM-5-TR to capture the experiences and symptoms of children more precisely, one of these involving changes to criterion A.2 for posttraumatic stress disorder in children. The change was approved by the DSM Steering Committee and APA Assembly and Board of Trustees.

Rationale for Change

The note stating: “witnessing does not include events that are witnessed only in electronic media, television, movies, or pictures” in criterion A.2 was removed for children 6 years and younger. The reason was that the note is redundant given that criterion A.2 already indicates that the events occurring to others must be witnessed in person.

DSM is the manual used by clinicians and researchers to diagnose and classify mental disorders. The American Psychiatric Association (APA) will publish DSM-5-TR in 2022.

APA is a national medical specialty society whose more than 37,400 physician members specialize in the diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and research of mental illnesses, including substance use disorders. Visit the APA at www.psychiatry.org. For more information, please contact APA Communications at 202-459-9732 or press@psych.org.

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