PNNS psychopharmacology evening

Steve Sulzbacher
on practicing rural child psychology

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Should psychologists prescribe?

- APA position is that we should;
- Today, it is really a question of when, not whether.
- I support the APA position…
- but I, personally, would not apply for such privileges.
Psychology’s unique contribution:

- Does a particular Rx work for a particular condition?
- How does this Rx affect this individual child?
Today’s Situation in the Pacific Northwest

- Large areas with no child psychiatrists or child psychologists;
- I support local general practitioners thru outreach & telehealth clinics;
- [http://depts.washington.edu/wwami](http://depts.washington.edu/wwami)
EDPSY 581e - UW College of Education

- Graduate Seminar on Child & Adolescent Psychopharmacology in Educational Settings
- meets current Wash. State licensing requirement
The Febrile Seizures study of phenobarbital

- we found this treatment had no main effect on seizures
- we found a significant negative side effect on IQ
- we changed standard medical practice
How you measure drug effect matters!

- Clinical impression - 88% found (+) drug effect
- Rating scales - 57% found (+) drug effect
- Neuropsych. tests - 17% found (+) drug effect
- Direct measure of behavior - 41% found (+) drug effect
- n= 208 studies