

Assertions in “Anatomy”

- Rising epidemic
 - Psychiatry disorders
 - Disability due to psychiatric disorders
- Psychopharmacology harmful.
 - Causes epidemic of disorders and disability
 - Makes patients worse
- No biological basis for psychiatry
- No evidence for chemical imbalance

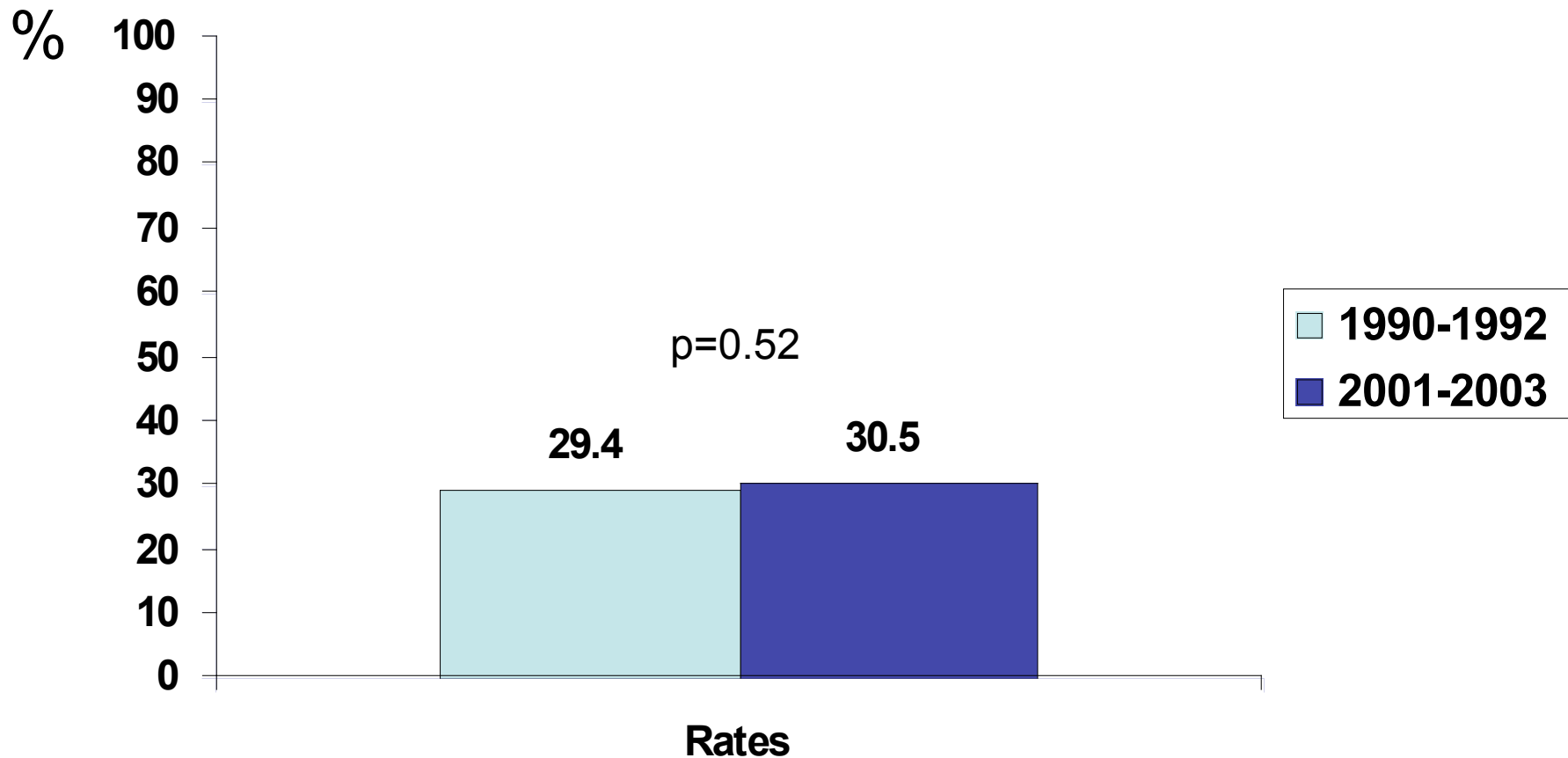
Rising Epidemic

Assertion: “Astonishing Rise of Mental Illness in America” caused by increased rates of treatment

Refutation:

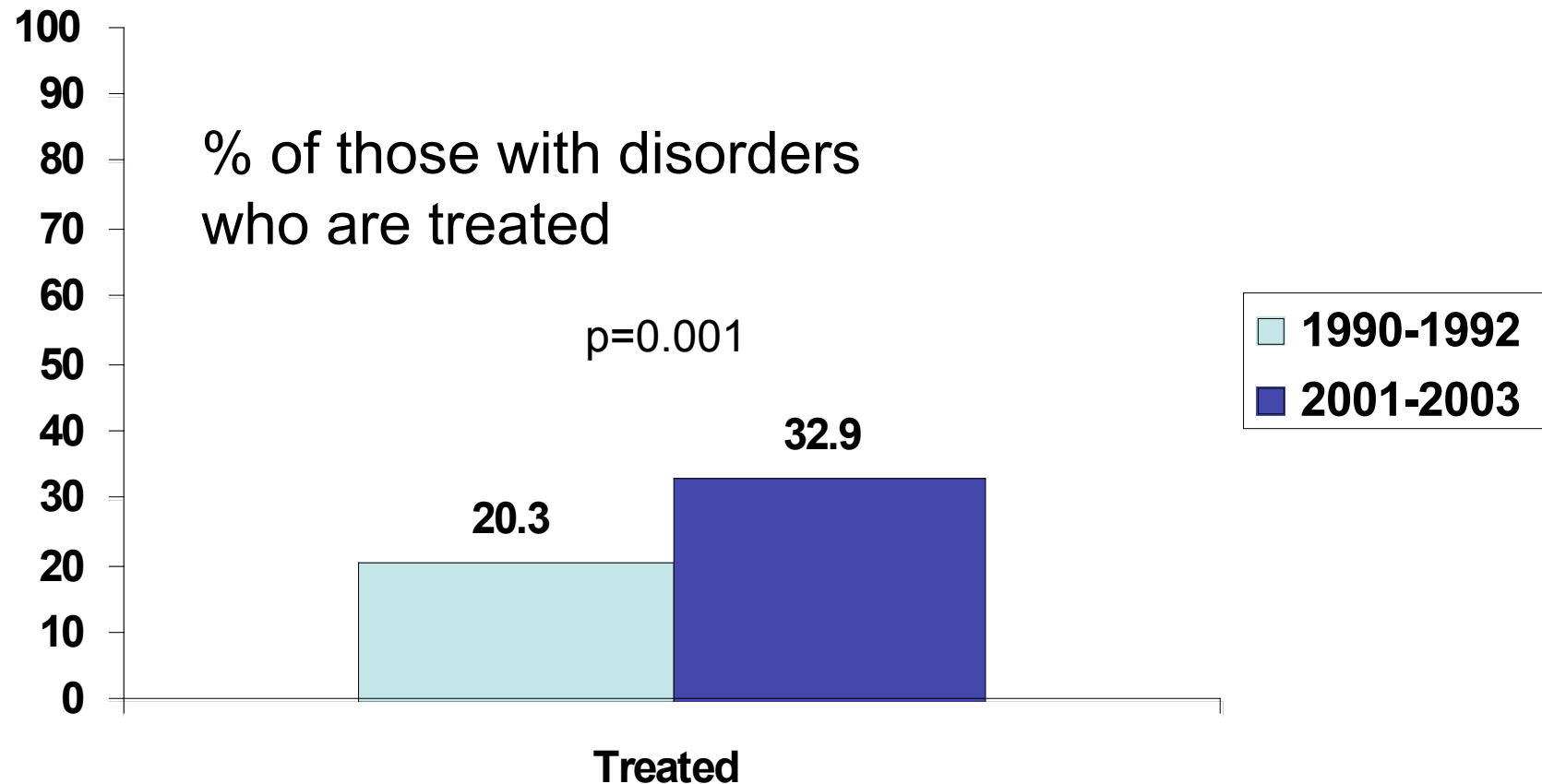
- No increase in incidence or prevalence
- Inconsistent with epidemiological data
- No evidence of causality
- Conclusion: Assertion False

Stable Prevalence of Psychiatric Disorders



Kessler et al. N Engl J Med 2005; 352:2515-2523

Prevalence Stable Despite Increased Rates of Treatment



Kessler et al. N Engl J Med 2005; 352:2515-2523

Rising Disability

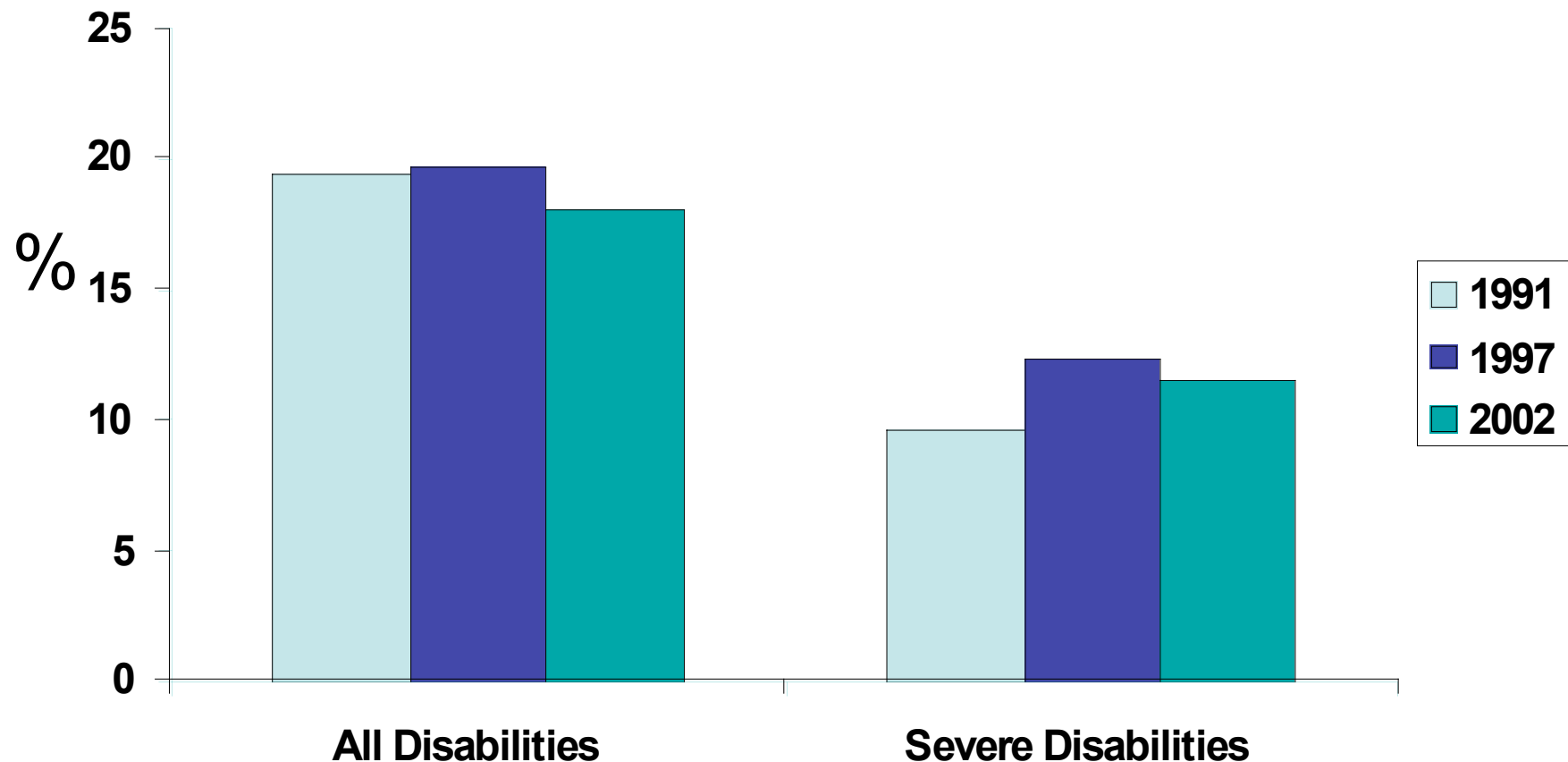
- Assertion: Psychiatric disability increasing and caused by psychiatric medication
- Refutation:
 - Disability rates stable
 - Disability status easier to obtain over time
 - Changes with rules and funding (ADA)
 - No evidence of cause and effect with meds
- Conclusion: Assertion False

Whitaker falsely equates
hospitalization rates years ago with
disability rates today.

Disability Definition

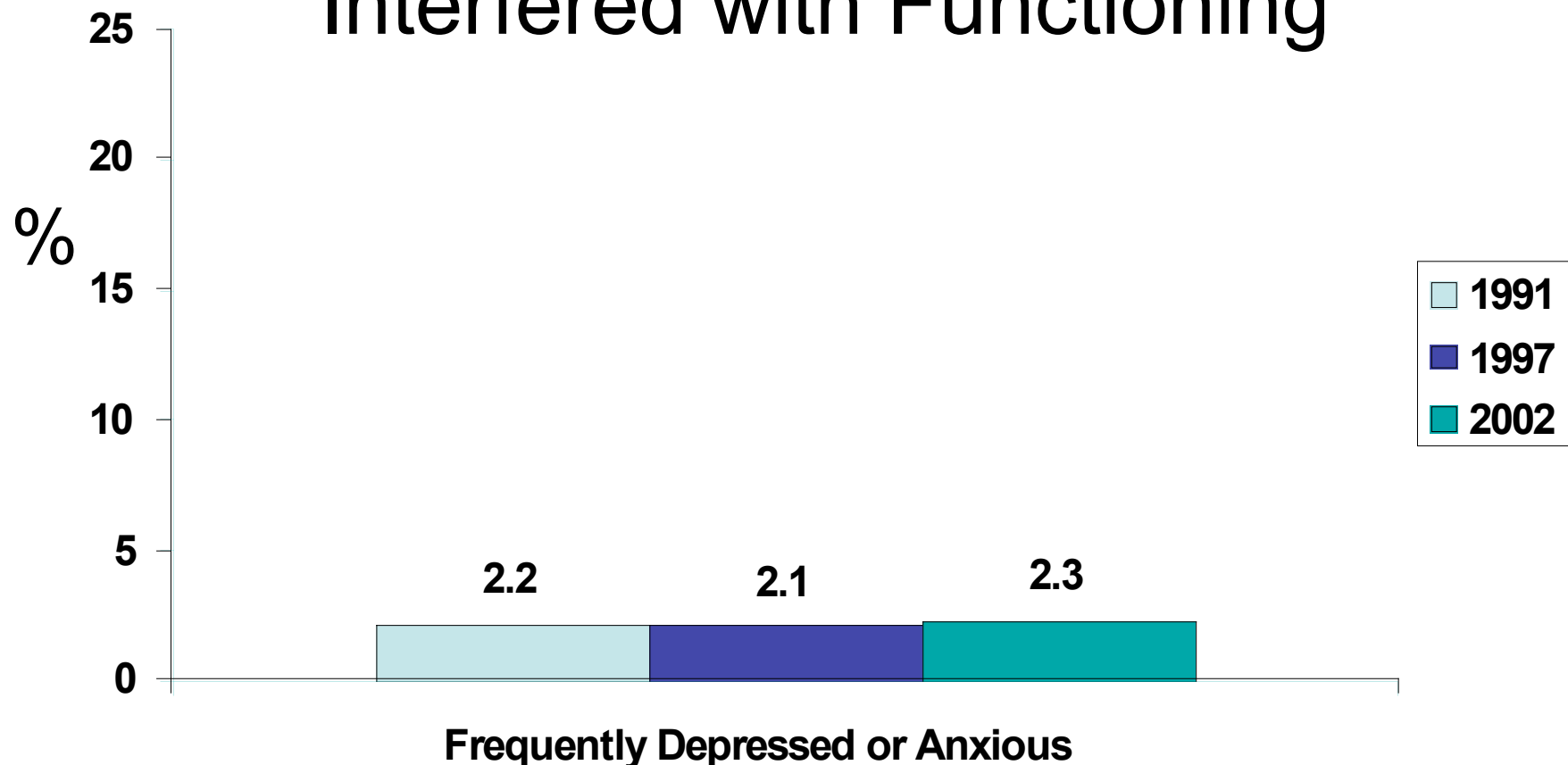
-any other mental or emotional condition that seriously interfered with everyday activities (frequently depressed or anxious, trouble getting along with others, trouble concentrating, or trouble coping with day-to-day stress)

Overall Disability Rates: All Causes



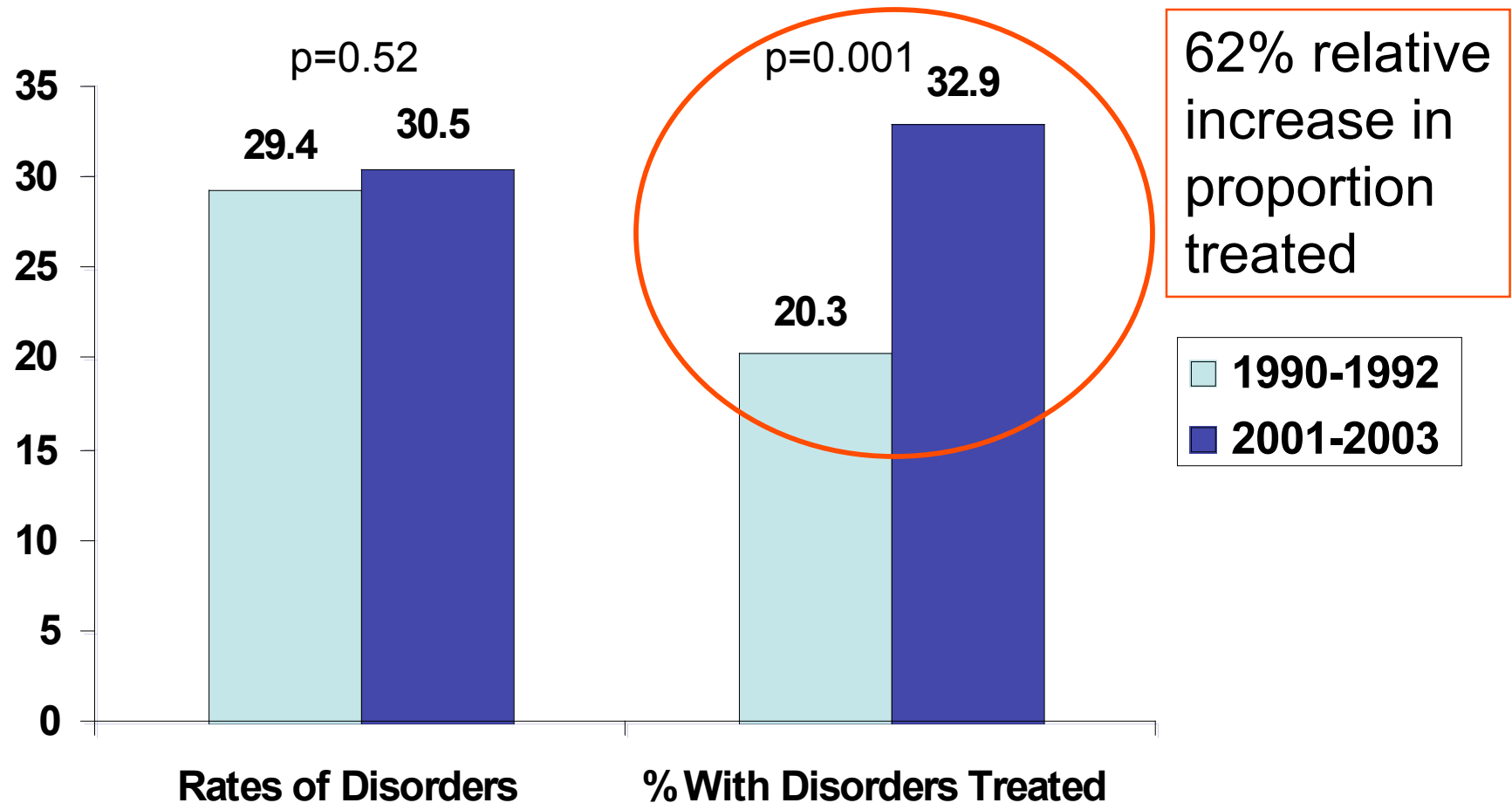
US Census Bureau. Americans with Disabilities. Household Economic Studies.
Current Population Reports. 1991, 1997, 2002

Prevalence of those with Depressed or Anxious Symptoms that Seriously Interfered with Functioning



US Census Bureau. Americans with Disabilities. Household Economic Studies. Current Population Reports.

Prevalence Stable Despite Increased Rate of Treatment



Kessler et al. N Engl J Med 2005; 352:2515-2523