



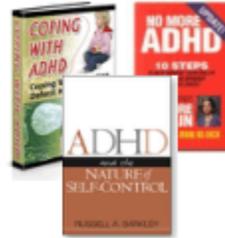
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

**Discussion on
Children, Adolescents and Adults with
AD/HD and Parents of Children and with
AD/HD**



Purpose

- This discussion will provide broad educational information for individuals and families who are dealing with AD/HD and learning to navigate the challenges of AD/HD across the lifespan



Is AD/HD Over-Diagnosed?

- A) Yes



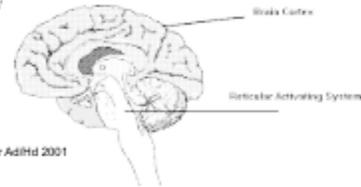
- B) No

MYTH: AD/HD is Over-Diagnosed

- **FACT** - 3.5 million children meet criteria for AD/HD, but only 50% are diagnosed and treated
- **FACT** - 57% of children with AD/HD receive accurate diagnosis
- **FACT** - Only 20% of minority children with AD/HD are diagnosed

Notes:

- While there may be a common perception in our society that AD/HD is over-diagnosed and over-treated, the facts speak for themselves.
- Please note that only 50% of identified children are treated.
- Most importantly, an increased focus on African Americans, Hispanic Americans (Latinos), and other ethnic groups is needed.
- There is a large disparity in diagnosis and treatment in the African American community as reported by Bussing. A primary cause may be a lack of knowledge of this disorder among this and other groups.



Sater, D. J. et al *Pediatrics* 1995; 96:1084-1087
Bussing R. *Barrier to Help-Seeking and Treatment for AdHd* 2001
Bussing R. et al *Soc Sci Med.* 1998; 37:74-84

AD/HD-Types



AD/HD Diagnostic Subtypes:

- Primarily Inattentive Type AD/HD-I
 - Primarily Hyperactive/Impulsive Type AD/HD-H
 - Combined Type AD/HD-C
- Specified by the DSM-IV American Psychiatric Association Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, 4th Ed.

Characteristics of AD/HD



- A chronic disorder
- Characterized by a persistent pattern of inattention, hyperactivity and/or impulsivity
- Marked by behaviors that significantly impair age-appropriate functioning of the individual in at least two areas of life, such as home, social settings, school or work



Notes:

ADHD is a chronic disorder characterized by a persistent pattern of inattention, hyperactivity and/or impulsivity that significantly impairs the age-appropriate functioning of the individual in social, academic and occupational settings. The information on this slide and the next slide are called the DSM IV Exclusion Criteria

Characteristics of AD/HD (cont'd)

- Evident for at least six months, some symptoms must be present before age seven
- Symptoms lead to significant impairment in social, academic or occupational areas
- Symptoms are not exclusively due to other mental disorders

Executive Functioning



The impaired executive functioning skills in individuals with AD/HD are related to abnormal dopamine levels in the frontal lobe of the brain

Notes

Executive Functioning has best been described as your "brain's CEO."

As Thomas Brown, Ph.D., says, "Executive function is the management network of the brain that connects and prioritizes and integrates cognitive functions moment by moment." Executive functioning serves as the control center for the brain, managing such skills as:

- organizing time and space
- expressing oneself in written or spoken language
- starting and finishing projects
- using internal self-talk to control one's actions

Executive Functioning: Practical Implications on Performance at Home and School

- Getting started
- Remembering important information such as chores and assignments
- Memorizing multiplication tables or other facts
- Writing essays
- Remembering what has been read (reading comprehension)
- Controlling emotions Analyzing and problem solving
- Planning for the future



•Information from Chris Zeigler Dendy

Impairment & AD/HD

Impairments are adverse effects resulting from core symptoms (degree & severity)

To what degree do the AD/HD characteristics impair one's daily functions in life?

Mild _____ **Moderate** _____ **Severe**

There is a high degree of variability in the symptoms.

Not all individuals with AD/HD look alike

Factors to Think About!

- Occasionally, we all exhibit AD/HD symptoms; however, AD/HD is governed by the rule and not the exception
- AD/HD is a performance deficit, not an intelligence deficit
- Major performance or "output" issues can be a problem
- Individuals often have a 2-4 year developmental lag in age-appropriate skills and emotional development
- Often, there are stigma issues with diagnosis || AD/HD can frequently be a hidden disorder



Notes: Performance issues can include: Variability in schoolwork Forgetfulness & disorganization AD/HD is a hidden disorder- these children look normal and the adults in their lives expect them to act normal Two-thirds of children with AD/HD have at least one co-existing condition

Co-Existing Disorders

