YOUNG PEOPLE, MENTAL HEALTH & ADHD: LEARNINGS FOR THE YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM

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OVERVIEW

- Background
- Diagnosis
- Treatment
- Impact
1902: ‘Morbid defect of moral Control’

1987: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
DEMOGRAPHICS

• 5% OF CHILD POPULATION
• 50% OF ATTENDEES AT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
CO-OCCURRING CONDITIONS

44% of ADHD meet criteria for one other disorder

32% for 2 other disorders

11% have at least 3 other disorders
SYMPTOMS:
HYPERACTIVITY; IMPULSIVITY; INATTENTION

Symptoms of hyperactivity:
- Often fidgets with hands or squirms in seat
- Often has difficulty staying or engaging in leisure activities quietly
- Often runs about or climbs excessively in situations in which it is not appropriate
- Often loses seat in situations in which remaining seated is expected

Symptoms of impulsivity:
- Often blurts out answers before questions have been completed
- Often interrupts or intrudes on others
- Makes important decisions without considering long-term consequences
- Is often “on the go” or acts as if driven by a motor
- Often has difficulty sitting or waiting
- Reckless behaviour and accident prone

Symptoms of inattention:
- Is often forgetful in daily activities
- Is easily distracted by extraneous stimuli
- Often loses things necessary for tasks or activities
- Often does not seem to listen when spoken to directly
- Avoidance of activities that require sustained mental effort
- Often has difficulty organising tasks and activities
- Difficulty sustaining attention during activities
- Difficulty following instructions and failing to complete tasks
- Close attention to detail or making mistakes
- Often appears lazy, bad, worthless, dumb, or dumb
### School
- Individual Education Plan
- Resource Hours
- Special Needs Assistant
- Reasonable Accommodations in State Exams (RACE)
- Disability Access Route to Education (DARE)

### Parenting
- ADHD and Education
- Parenting Pyramid®

### Medicine
- Stimulants
  - Ritalin
  - Concerta
  - Ritalin LA
  - Tyvense
  - Intuniv
- Non-stimulants
  - Atomoxetine
FUNCTIONAL IMPAIRMENT
ADHD COMPARED TO NON-ADHD

- Repeat a grade: 30% ADHD, 20% Non-ADHD
- < High school: 35% ADHD, 16% Non-ADHD
- Teen pregnancy: 40% ADHD, 10% Non-ADHD
- STD: 16% ADHD, 5% Non-ADHD
- Substance abuse: 53% ADHD, 50% Non-ADHD
- Accident prone: 50% ADHD, 40% Non-ADHD
- Serious car accident: 50% ADHD, 30% Non-ADHD
- Arrested: 30% ADHD, 20% Non-ADHD
- Incarcerated: 30% ADHD, 20% Non-ADHD
- Fired from job: 52% ADHD, 40% Non-ADHD

Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder in persistent criminal offenders: the need for specialist treatment programs

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"The high rates of ADHD among this group, the consumption and costs of the resources they incur, mean that it is not a condition we can afford to ignore."

A meta-analysis of the prevalence of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in incarcerated populations

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Background: Studies report the variable prevalence of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in incarcerated populations. The aim of this meta-analysis was to determine the prevalence of ADHD in these populations.

Methods: Primary research studies reporting the prevalence (dissimilarity) of ADHD in incarcerated populations were identified. The meta-analysis used a mixed-effects model, including fixed effects for each country and a random study effect, to estimate the significance of various risk factors.

Results: Forty-two studies were included in the analysis. ADHD prevalence was higher with younger diagnoses and diagnostic interview (and with retrospective youth diagnoses and current diagnosis). Using diagnostic interview data, the estimated prevalence was 25.5% and there were no significant differences for gender and age. Significant variability was observed between and within studies.

Conclusions: Compared to published general population prevalence, there is a substantial increase in prevalence of ADHD in youth offender populations. Further research is needed to address this gap in understanding.

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Relationship between ADHD symptoms and offending behaviour and breaches of prison discipline among incarcerated youths in Scotland

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ADHD mental health is an increasingly important concern. An often neglected condition among youth prisoners, ADHD, which not only has implications for general health and well-being, but is also associated with an increased risk of antisocial behaviour and unlawful behaviour (including violent offences). The present study investigates the relationship between ADHD symptoms and violent and non-violent conduct in male youth prisoners in prison.
ADHD ATTITUDES AND KNOWLEDGE AMONG PROBATION SERVICE PROFESSIONALS IN IRELAND

• **Qualitative Study with 25 Probation Officers in Ireland (11 youth)**
• **Results: thematic analysis**
• **Lack of understanding of Diagnostic Validity, Barriers in accessing services, media misrepresentation, lack of training, high level of interest in accessing training in ADHD.**
IMPLICATIONS?