



ADHD- Fact Sheet

What is Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder?

Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder is a **developmental disability** defined by problems with attention, hyperactivity, or impulse control that occurs in more than one setting, like home, school, and weekend activities.

How many children are affected?

ADHD affects 11.4% of children aged 3-17 years in the United States – about 7 million children. Boys are almost twice as likely to be diagnosed with ADHD as girls (15% vs. 8%).

What critical programs ensure care?

- **Medicaid** supports physical health and mental health care for about half of all children with special healthcare needs like ADHD.
- **Public schools** provide critical special education support under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and accommodations through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

What does the evidence say?

- **There are very effective treatments for ADHD**, including behavioral intervention, school support and medication, yet families struggle to access them.
- **Nearly one-third of children who need ADHD treatment do not receive it.**
- **Early diagnosis and treatment can improve life outcomes for people with ADHD.** Giving children the support they need helps them reach their full potential and reduces long-term healthcare costs.

Research Support and More Information:

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