ADHD Affected 9.5% of Children in 2007-2008

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NEW YORK – The prevalence of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder among children and adolescents rose to its highest level in 2007-2008, with 9.5% of children and adolescents ever diagnosed, according to a federally sponsored national telephone survey covering more than 70,000 American children and adolescents. Although the reasons behind the increased prevalence are likely multifactorial, treatment rates remain unchanged.

A number of studies have reported an increase in the prevalence of ADHD, and there have been no studies of the size of the population with ADHD. Nevertheless, the prevalence of ADHD has increased in recent years, and the prevalence of ADHD among children and adolescents has increased from 2.1% to 9.5% in 2007-2008.

According to the National Survey of Children's Health, 70,000 American children and adolescents had a current diagnosis of ADHD when surveyed in 2007-2008. Of these, 4.1 million American children and adolescents had a current diagnosis of ADHD, 2.9 million children and adolescents diagnosed with ADHD were prescribed medication for their ADHD, and 2.7 million children and adolescents aged 15-17 received medication treatment for their ADHD.

In the United States, ADHD is the most common mental health condition among children, affecting about 1 in 10 children. In 2007-2008, the prevalence of ADHD among children aged 6-17 years was 9.5%, which was higher than the 7.8% rate in 2003-2004. In 2007-2008, there was a statistically significant increase in the prevalence of ADHD among children aged 6-17 years.

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