



Welcome to CHADD - CHADD Fact Sheet #8

Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD) is a national non-profit organization founded in 1987 in response to the frustration and sense of isolation experienced by parents and their children with AD/HD. At that time, there were very few places individuals could turn to for support or information. Many people seriously misunderstood AD/HD. Many clinicians and educators knew little about the disability, and individuals with AD/HD were often mistakenly labeled “a behavior problem,” “unmotivated,” or “not intelligent enough.”

Individuals and families dealing with AD/HD turn to CHADD, the national organization representing individuals with AD/HD, for education, advocacy and support. AD/HD is medically and legally recognized as a treatable yet potentially serious disorder, affecting up to three to five percent of all children and approximately two to four percent of adults. Today, children with AD/HD may be eligible for special education services or accommodations within the regular classroom when needed, and adults with AD/HD may be eligible for accommodations in the workplace under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

CHADD is a success story inspired by the desire of countless parents to see their children with AD/HD succeed. From one parent support group in Florida, the organization has grown dramatically to become the leading non-profit national organization for children and adults with AD/HD. Today, the organization has a small national staff, which manages the day-to-day responsibilities, while its Board of Directors sets policy and oversees the organization’s well-being. The organization is composed of dedicated volunteers from around the country who play an integral part in the association’s success by providing support, education and encouragement to parents, educators and professionals on a grassroots level through CHADD chapters. Despite the association’s growth in membership and reputation, CHADD has not lost the passion and commitment from its founders.

This Fact Sheet was last updated: July 2001

Special Note: CHADD is aware that a new, non-stimulant medication option has been approved for the treatment of AD/HD. This fact sheet will be available Summer 2003.

For further information about AD/HD or CHADD, please contact the
CHADD National Resource Center on AD/HD

8181 Professional Place, Suite 150, Landover, MD 20785
1-800-233-4050

www.help4adhd.org

Please also visit the CHADD Website at www.chadd.org.

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CHADD at Work

CHADD has six primary objectives:

1. To maintain a support network for parents and caregivers who have children with AD/HD and for adults with AD/HD;
2. To provide a forum for continuing education on AD/HD for parents, professionals and adults;
3. To be a community resource and disseminate evidence-based information about AD/HD to parents, educators, professionals and the media;
4. To promote ongoing research;
5. To make the best educational experiences available to children with AD/HD so that their specific difficulties will be recognized and appropriately managed within educational settings; and
6. To promote and influence legislative activities at the national, state and local levels.

In order to execute CHADD's primary objectives, the CHADD Board of Directors puts into place an annual strategic plan. This plan identifies strategic objectives that are measurable and provide action to support and promote CHADD's mission and principles.

In 1993, CHADD officially changed the name of the organization from Children with Attention Deficit Disorders to Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorders. This change reflected the growing recognition that many children with AD/HD become adults with AD/HD, and that CHADD's services and programs are increasingly important to adults as well. Presently, experts estimate that up to as many as 67 percent of children with AD/HD still manifest symptoms in adulthood.¹ In 1998, in an effort to keep current with medically accepted terminology, CHADD again changed its name to Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder.

CHADD is at the forefront of publishing and disseminating the most current scientifically-based and authoritative information about AD/HD to members and professionals in the areas of medicine, psychology, education, law and other professions. The members of CHADD's Professional Advisory Board are experts in these and related fields. They play an integral part in keeping the organization abreast of the latest developments regarding all aspects of AD/HD, including research into cause and treatment, behavior management, employment, insurance, co-existing conditions and other issues surrounding AD/HD.

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CHADD publishes a variety of printed materials to keep members and professionals current on research advances, medications and treatments affecting individuals with AD/HD. *Attention!*® magazine is published bi-monthly, and provides cutting-edge information on AD/HD and how it affects individuals from childhood through adulthood. *Inside CHADD* is a newsletter focusing on programs and services that make CHADD work on the grassroots level - it is written for CHADD members and by CHADD members. Other publications include the *CHADD Educators Manual*, a book offering teachers an in-depth examination of AD/HD in the classroom and concrete suggestions for effectively teaching a child with AD/HD. It is one of the most widely read publications about AD/HD and education. In 1996, CHADD published *AD/HD and Adolescence*, a collection of the most authoritative articles on the subject. In 1997, in response to increased demand for more information about adults with AD/HD, CHADD published *AD/HD and Adults: Strategies for Success*.

CHADD's award-winning web site, located at www.chadd.org, offers visitors the most current information on AD/HD. It provides the latest information on research data, as well as links to numerous institutions where scientifically-based studies are currently underway. The members only site allows the membership to access past articles from CHADD publications, participate in monthly chats with an expert in the field, access transcripts from previous chats and chat rooms. In addition, CHADD's renown web site provides technical assistance to our volunteer leaders in the field.

CHADD also sponsors the world's preeminent conference on AD/HD. Held annually, the conference brings together thousands of parents, scientists, health care professionals, educators and other experts whose work involves individuals with AD/HD.

CHADD's Public Policy Initiatives

CHADD's local chapters sponsor parent and adult support groups, convene educational meetings featuring expert speakers, and work with local school systems to educate teachers about the disorder and accommodations for children with AD/HD.

In 1991, CHADD was instrumental in advocating for the U.S. Department of Education to recognize children with AD/HD as eligible for special education and related services.

As a result, the Department issued a "Policy Clarification Memorandum" on September 16, 1991. This memorandum, which carries the force of law, clarified that children with AD/HD may qualify for special education and related services solely on the basis of their AD/HD when it impairs educational performance or learning. The memorandum recognized children with AD/HD as eligible under both the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. CHADD went on to make significant contributions to the 1997 reauthorization of IDEA, and on March

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11, 1999, AD/HD was formally listed in the IDEA Regulations under the category "Other Health Impairment." Throughout the process, CHADD was consistently the most well represented group at IDEA Regulations hearings held across the country.

Grassroots advocacy also plays an important role in CHADD's efforts to protect the rights of individuals with AD/HD. The CHADD Volunteer Action Network (VAN), initiated at CHADD's 1999 Conference, links volunteers across the country to their elected officials. VAN members contact officials on specific legislation, inform the National office of proposed actions by state legislators, and enable CHADD's advocacy efforts to have national stature.

To further aid legislative efforts, CHADD has added an exciting new feature to the web site: the Legislative Action Center. This feature enables visitors to access current information from Congress and to contact their elected officials about issues identified by CHADD. Status is updated automatically, and sample e-mail messages can be prepared and linked to specific legislative proposals.

CHADD's message continues to be one of education and advocacy for all individuals with AD/HD. The challenges are clear and the course has been set, but as our mission statement reflects, CHADD will continue working to improve the lives of people affected by AD/HD through: collective leadership, advocacy, research, education and support.

The information presented here is based on CHADD Fact Sheet No. 8.

References

1. Barkley, RA, Fischer, M., Fletcher, K., & Smallish, L. (2001) *Young adult outcome of hyperactive children as a function of severity of childhood conduct problems, I: Psychiatric status and mental health treatment*. Submitted for publication.

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