

Prevalence of probable Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder symptoms: Result from a Spanish sample of children

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Background: The aims of our study were to: (i) determine the prevalence of children aged 4 to 6 years with probable Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) symptoms in the Spanish population; and (ii) analyse the association of probable ADHD symptoms with sex, age, type of school, origin (native or foreign) and socio-economic status in these children. **Methods:** This cross-sectional study included 1189 children (4 to 6 years-old) from 21 primary schools in 19 towns from the Ciudad Real and Cuenca provinces, Castilla-La Mancha region, Spain. The ADHD Rating Scales IV for parents and teachers was administered to determine the probability of ADHD. The 90th percentile cut-off was used to establish the prevalence of inattention, hyperactivity/impulsivity and combined subtype. **Results:** The prevalence of children with probable ADHD symptoms was 5.4% (2.6% inattention subtype symptoms, 1.5% hyperactivity/impulsivity subtype symptoms, and 1.3% combined subtype symptoms). Children aged 4 to 5 years showed a higher prevalence of probable ADHD in the inattention subtype symptoms and in total of all subtypes than children aged 6 years, and children with low socio-economic status reported a higher prevalence of probable ADHD symptoms (each subtype and total of all of them) than those with medium and high socio-economic status. **Conclusions:** Early diagnosis and an understanding of the predictors of being probable ADHD are needed to direct appropriate identification and intervention efforts. These screening efforts should be especially addressed to vulnerable groups, particularly low socio-economic status families and younger children. © 2018 The Author(s).

ADHD

ADHD Rating Scale

Attention Deficit Disorder with Hyperactivity

Attention Deficit Disorder with Hyperactivity/epidemiology

Children

Socio-economic status

Article

attention deficit disorder

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Rating Scale IV

attention disturbance

child

cross-sectional study

female

human

hyperactivity

impulsiveness

male

preschool child

prevalence

socioeconomics

Spaniard

attention deficit disorder

risk factor

Spain

Attention Deficit Disorder with Hyperactivity

Child

Child, Preschool

Cross-Sectional Studies

Female

Humans

Male

Prevalence

Risk Factors

Spain