

THE ADHD CORRECTIONS PROJECT: EARLY STATISTICAL FINDINGS

THE DELAWARE CENTER FOR JUSTICE (DCJ) &
ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER ASSOCIATION (ADDA)

The following statistics are the result of data collection & analysis conducted between: March 2012 — December 2012.

The table below compares the rate of variables among inmates who screened positive for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (i.e. reported symptoms highly consistent with ADHD in adults) and those who screened negative (i.e. the control group). Many of these variables translate into risk factors for problematic encounters with the criminal justice system.

68% of participants screened positive for ADHD, compared to 26% screened negative. (6% of results were deemed inconclusive.) Only 58% of those screened positive for ADHD had ever been diagnosed. At the time, none were receiving treatment.

Statistics are based on a survey of 100 male inmates.*
The average age of participants was 30.13 years old.

	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
HIGHEST EDUCATION LEVEL REACHED	11th	12th
AVERAGE GRADES (BASED ON A GPA SCALE)	2.18	2.57
CONSIDERED "PROBLEM STUDENT" E.G. CLASS CLOWN, TROUBLEMAKER	71.6%	36.0%
EVER SUSPENDED OR EXPELLED	94.1%	88.5%
EVER DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL	62.7%	52.0%
MOST RECENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS:		
• FULL TIME	36.8%	69.2%
• PART TIME	23.6%	19.2%
• UNEMPLOYED	29.4%	11.5%
• STUDENT/OTHER	10.3%	0.0%
LENGTH (IN MONTHS) OF MOST RECENT EMPLOYMENT	27.8	38.6
EVER TERMINATED FROM A JOB	39.1%	40.0%

While there was very little difference between positive and negative groups in terms of whether or not they had ever been fired from a job, there was a significant difference in the **NUMBER** of terminations between the two groups. Those screened positive were fired on average **1.75** times more than those who screened negative.

ADHD can lead to social difficulties, such as trouble with self-esteem.

REPORT TROUBLE MAKING FRIENDS	16.4%	8.0%
REPORT TROUBLE KEEPING FRIENDS	35.3%	3.8%
REPORT TROUBLE WITH RELATIONSHIPS	54.4%	34.6%
MOODS CHANGE FREQUENTLY, ABRUPTLY, AND/OR UNPREDICTABLY	77.3%	44.0%
REPORT TROUBLE WITH TEMPER	76.5%	50.0%

*NB: Because participation in the survey & preliminary screening was offered to all interested inmates following an introductory presentation on AD/HD and our program, these statistics are not intended to represent incidence of AD/HD among a random sample pool, but rather represent patterns in relevant background information among informed participants.

MORE STATISTICS:

	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
NUMBER OF INCARCERATIONS (SENTENCED)	5.767	2.000
NUMBER OF INCARCERATIONS (TOTAL)	7.333	2.545

*Sometimes the impact of AD/HD is more visible in the **number of offenses** than simply whether or not a violation occurred. Individuals with AD/HD experience greater difficulty avoiding repeat offenses, thus making successful reentry even more challenging for them.*

HISTORY OF DRUG USE	84.5%	78.3%
HISTORY OF ADDICTION	75.0%	61.5%

*Individuals with AD/HD have a higher predisposition for **substance abuse**, both as a means of **self medication** & due to a propensity for **sensation-seeking behavior**.*

HAVE, OR HAVE EVER HAD, A DRIVER'S LICENSE	55.9%	76.9%
HAVE EVER HAD THEIR DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENDED	80.0%	86.4%

Although there was a 21% discrepancy between the positive and negative groups in terms of possession of a driver's license, there was a difference of only 6% in whether or not their licenses had ever been suspended. It is possible to have one's license suspended even if one does not technically possess a license. For example, one can have their license suspended for driving without a license, or for criminal charges.

More members of the positive group reported having had their driver's licenses suspended than actually possessed driver's licenses.

PRENATAL PROBLEMS OR COMPLICATIONS AT BIRTH	22.6%	15.4%
MOTHER USED ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUGS DURING PREGNANCY	28.6%	9.1%
MOTHER SMOKED CIGARETTES DURING PREGNANCY	50.0%	33.3%
SUFFERED SERIOUS HEAD INJURY AS A CHILD	38.2%	34.6%

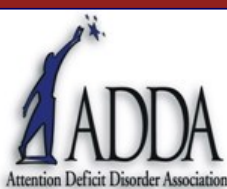
ADHD is a hereditary disorder which may be negatively impacted throughout life by brain trauma and injury. It is estimated that 80% of individuals with AD/HD are born with it, while 20% may acquire it later on.* **

REPORT HAVING EVER EXPERIENCED:		
... PROLONGED PERIODS OF SADNESS OR DEPRESSION	75.0%	61.5%
...EXCESSIVE ANXIETY	76.5%	57.7%
...PANIC OR ANXIETY ATTACKS	44.1%	23.1%
...OBSESSIONS OR PREOCCUPATIONS	50.0%	26.9%
...COMPULSIVE HABITS OR RITUALS	58.8%	23.1%
...MANIC EPISODES	29.4%	7.7%
...SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN SLEEPING PATTERNS	75.0%	61.5%

ADHD frequently exists as comorbid with other disorders, and may often be masked by more obvious or visible problems.

* Dr. Janet Kramer, *ADHD and the Justice System*

** Barkley, 2006



For additional information on AD/HD & Corrections or the AD/HD Corrections Project, please contact:

Caitlyn Jackson, *Project Coordinator*
(302) 658-7174, extension 11
cjackson@dcjustice.org

