

Identification of Persons with ADHD Within the U.S. Jails: What Difference Does It Make ?

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Prevalence Rate of ADHD Inmates

- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) occurs in 4.4% of the community adult population but has been found in **over than twenty % of adults** who are incarcerated.

Why the High Prevalence of those with ADHD in the Justice System?

Cultural Changes in US:

In the 1960s and 1970s, the U.S. moved to deinstitutionalize many with mental illness followed by “War on Drugs” in the 1970s and “Three strikes and you’re out.”

By 1992, there were more people with mental illness in prison than in state hospitals. Prisons have replaced state hospitals as facilities for the mentally ill.

The Behavioral Symptoms of ADHD:

Risk Taking, Impulsivity + Higher levels of Substance Abuse than same age peers without ADHD

Why Be Concerned About Adults with ADHD in U. S. Jails?

ANSWER:

- Number of adults with ADHD in system
- Behavioral symptoms related to ADHD challenge institutional security
- Less likely than those without ADHD to respond positively to focused correction treatment programs such as substance abuse treatment and group therapy involving confrontation
- Higher recidivism rate after the first and subsequent incarcerations if specific treatment for ADHD is not in inmate's treatment plan

Traditional Correctional System in U. S.

- **Primary job of Corrections is to safeguard the public and secondarily, safeguard the inmates**
- Behaviors evaluated as disciplinary issues not mental health issues (Cultural difference between corrections & health service)
- Disjointed treatment with emphasis on substance abuse treatment
- Treatment of ADHD and other mental health disorders is focused on preventing suicide and emergency treatment of acute mental health issues
- Until recently, poor identification of psychological and developmental disorders
- Co-morbid mental health issues not identified

Adults with ADHD in Jail

- More likely to be placed in jail pre trial because of previous minor charges, appearance of not paying attention, or erratic behavior or response
- More likely to be bullied by others and respond with aggression
- More likely to confess to charges even when innocent
- Lack of social and financial resources extend stay in jail
- More likely to attempt suicide while upset especially at time of first incarceration
- Probably will not receive ADHD medication in jail

Examples of Difficulties in the Current Jail System

Experience of Presenters and Audience?

Benefits of Screening for ADHD in Jail

- Provides opportunity to identify previously unrecognized behavioral challenges
- Alerts staff to issues related to inmate clinical symptoms and formulate an appropriate response, therefore improving inmate and staff safety
- Educates staff about an extremely common disability challenging inmates and improves the quality of staff and inmate interaction through the institution of appropriate accommodations and expectations
- Reduces conduct violations and improves participation in educational, vocational and reentry programming
- Increases post release success under supervision in the community, reducing drug use and recidivism

Young, S. , Adamou, M., Bolea, B., Gudjonsson, G., Muller, U., Pitts, M., Asherson, P., (2011) The identification and management of ADHD with the criminal justice system. BMC Psychiatry, 11, 1-14.

**Developing an Appropriate
Correctional System Response to
the New Reality
(ADDA's Progress 2007-2013)**

The ADDA ADHD & Corrections/Justice Workgroup

Purpose:

Advocate for the recognition and appropriate treatment of those with AD/HD in the justice system through a planned effort of education/awareness and policy development.

Partner Organizations (Start Date):

Correctional Healthcare Accreditation Organizations :

- National Commission on Correctional Healthcare , www.ncchc.org (2008)= *NCCHC*
- American Correctional Association, www.aca.org (2012)= *ACA*

Other Organizations:

- Delaware Center for Justice, www.dcjustice.org = *DCJ*
(2010) Partner for DE. ADHD Corrections Project and
(2012) Judicial Roundtable – ADHD Judicial Training

Educational /Awareness Effort of Work Group

- 2007 Advocacy for the Recognition of ADHD in Adult Correction Setting and Need for Treatment, *NCCHC National Mtg. Nashville, Tennessee*
- 2008 Dialog on ADHD and the Criminal Justice System, *NCCHC National Mtg., Chicago, Illinois*
- 2009 Implementing Behavioral Coaching for ADHD, *NCCHC National Mtg., Orlando, Florida*
- 2010 ADHD Diagnosis & Treatment Pilot Project in Adult Correction Setting- Experiences in Implementing an Evidence Based Program of Diagnosis and Treatment *NCCHC National Mtg., Las Vegas, Nevada*
- 2010 (Poster) ADHD Harm Reduction Project, *NCCHC Mental Health Mtg., Boston, Massachusetts.*
- 2011 The Case for Recognizing, Treating and Accommodating Those with ADHD in the Correctional System *NCCHC National Mtg., Baltimore, Maryland*

Continuing Progression of Education/ Awareness

- *March 23, 2012: Developing a Reentry Program for Offenders with ADHD*

Presentation to the Annual Meeting of the *ADHD Coaches Association*, Atlanta, Georgia by Kyle Dopfel and Pat Wood.

- *May 20, 2012: ADHD Corrections Project*

Poster presentation at the *National Commission on Correctional Health Care Spring Meeting*, San Antonio, Texas by Kyle Dopfel and Pat Wood.

- *November 16, 2012: Judicial Roundtable*

The Delaware Center for Justice (DCJ) and the Attention Deficit Disorder Association (ADDA) have partnered to create an educational workshop focused on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and the judicial system.

- *January 27, 2013: Adults with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
(Preparing a Correctional System Response)*

Presentation to the American Correctional Association Congress, Houston, Texas

Moderator –James C. Welsh, Speakers –Janet Kramer, Judith Cox. Kyle Dopfel, Caitlyn Jackson

Continuing Progression of Education/ Awareness

- *October 1, 2013* **Criminal Justice & ADHD: There are Solutions**
National Association of Case Managers-, Atlantic City, New Jersey
Presenters -Kyle Dopfel, Ashley Biden and Carol Kuprevich
- *October 28, 2013* **Adults With ADHD in Jails: Why It Matters**
(Presentation)National Commission on Correctional Health Care
Nashville, Tennessee
Presenters- Judith Cox, Janet Kramer, Carol Kuprevich, Kyle Dopfel
- *October 27, 2013* **Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in Adult Corrections** (Poster) National Commission on Correctional Health Care , Nashville, Tennessee, Presenter- Kyle Dopfel, 2013/2014 LVC

Public Policy Development Concerning ADHD and the Correction/Justice System

- Stages of Development:
 - Information gathering and pilot program development
 - Review information on ADHD screening, diagnosis and treatment within U. S. Correctional facilities
 - Review experience within local correctional facility including success, barriers and inmate/staff evaluation of program
 - White Paper focused on specific area of correction/justice system developed with large varied group of experts and utilizing evidence based information and best practice standards.
 - **First White Paper- ADHD in Jails and Juvenile Correctional Facilities**