



Increase Funding For ADHD Research & Education

CHADD Advocacy and Public Policy Committee Fact Sheet

Funding Request: Increase attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) funding for the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from \$1.9 to \$3.8 million dollars.

Reason for Funding Request: The CDC, through the NCBDDD, must expand its ability to educate physicians, educators, clinicians, related professionals, and the general public about ADHD and to advance scientific knowledge on risk factors, prevalence, societal and economic cost, health impact and co-occurring conditions of ADHD.

Current funding to the CDC's NCBDDD is \$28.1 million for Autism, \$2.5 million for Tourette Syndrome, and \$1.9 million for ADHD, with the same proposed for fiscal year 2025. Yet, over half of individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) also have symptoms of ADHD, the most common co-existing disorder of ASD; one-fourth of individuals with ADHD have low-level signs of ASD. Less than ten percent of individuals with ADHD have tics or Tourette Syndrome, while sixty to eighty percent of those with Tourette Syndrome have ADHD. Untreated ADHD is a public health concern, and it is far too costly to leave untreated.

What is ADHD:

- ADHD, a neurodevelopmental disorder, is one of the most common mental health conditions in youth in the United States and generally persists into adulthood.
- At least 6.5 million (10.5%) of children and adolescents have a diagnosis of ADHD and up to 5% of adults—at least 17 million people in the United States.
- The United States has no clinical guidelines to train health care providers how to diagnose and treat Adult ADHD. They are being developed and are expected to be available in 2025. When approved and release, more adults with ADHD can be appropriately diagnosed and treated using those guidelines.

Public Health Concern:

- Research shows that people with untreated ADHD [have a shorter lifespan](#) and higher rates of severe accidental injuries, driving accidents, substance use disorder, suicide, obesity, diabetes II, and other significant health problems.

- ADHD symptoms significantly impair functioning in major life activities (home, school, social, work, etc.) and lead to high economic and societal costs in the United States that range from \$143-\$266 billion, annually, including:
 - ⇒ Employment reduction between 10 and 14 percentage points.
 - ⇒ Earnings reduction of approximately 33%.
 - ⇒ Increase in social assistance of 15 points.

The markedly high costs associated with untreated ADHD make ADHD far *too costly a disorder to leave untreated*.

- Co-occurring conditions: At least two-thirds of individuals with ADHD have coexisting conditions, including anxiety, depression, and other mental health conditions.
- Multimodal treatment—which includes medication combined with therapies and school-based interventions—is effective in reducing the symptoms of ADHD.

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