

The National Prevalence of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Symptoms and its Comorbidities Among Children in Bahrain

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ABSTRACT

Background: The national prevalence of ADHD among school-age children in Bahrain is unknown.

Objective: The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence of ADHD and its comorbidities among school-aged children of 6–12 years.

Methods: The study used a cross-sectional design with a convenience sample of children attending eight primary health care centers and covering all four governorates in Bahrain. The total sample size needed was calculated using a prevalence rate of 5% (expected number 438). Children attending routine health screening evaluations were recruited into one of two groups. One group (n = 300) comprised children aged 6–7 years, and a second group (n = 150) comprised children aged 10–12 years. The gender representation in both groups was equal. All the children's mothers agreed to participate in the first stage of the interview in which they completed the brief Conners index. Participants whose score was above 15, out of a possible 30, were interviewed by a psychologist, and their mothers were asked to complete the parents' and teachers' Conners test.

Results: For both groups, the total ADHD prevalence was 4.22%; in Group 1 it was 5%, and in Group 2 it was 2.22%. The male: female ratio was 2.22:1. The prevalence of oppositional defiant disorder among children with ADHD was 52.6%, and the prevalence of conduct disorder was 36.3%.

Conclusions: This is the first national study in Bahrain on the prevalence of ADHD using a two-stage sampling technique. At 4.22%, the prevalence was comparable to that of other studies using similar methods.

Keywords: ADHD, Bahrain, comorbidity, prevalence, school-age children

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