Attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder traits among Mexican school-age children according to parents’ perception

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ABSTRACT

Attention deficit with hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is one of the most frequent neuro developmental disorders identified in children. The aim of this study was to estimate the prevalence of ADHD behaviour in a sample of Mexican school-aged children. Data were obtained from 6639 pupils enrolled in public elementary schools in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. Prevalence was based on parental reports collected using the full DSM-IV criteria. A total of 4399 questionnaires were received and analyzed. According to the parents, 8.9% of the children met the DSM-IV ADHD criteria. The male: female ratio was 2:1. Distribution by subtypes was as follows: 147 children with combined type, 132 inattentive children, and 114 with the hyperactive-impulsive type. Prevalence was higher from first grade to third grade than it was from fourth to sixth grade. The calculated ADHD prevalence is consistent with the range reported by other countries. Studies conducted with large samples are useful in the design of intervention strategies in accordance with the target population.