

Michael Schlander, Oliver Schwarz, Tobias Banaschewski, Goetz-Erik Trott, Michael Viapiano, Norbert Bonauer, Walter Scheller:

**Does One out of Seven Nine-Year Old Boys Suffer From ADHD?
The Increasing Administrative Prevalence of ADHD in Germany, 2003 – 2009**

OBJECTIVES: In our earlier health care utilization studies (for year 2003), we observed an administrative prevalence rate of ADHD in Nordbaden (a region in the South-West of Germany with a population of >2.7 million) of 0.53%, with a peak among nine-year old boys at 8.43%. The aim of the present study is to establish a longitudinal ADHD patient database and to assess changes of ADHD diagnosis rates by age and gender during years 2003 to 2009.

METHODS: Patient-level data were extracted for analysis from the physician-centered claims database of the *Kassenaerztliche Vereinigung* (KV) in Nordbaden / Germany, completely covering the regional population enrolled in statutory health insurance (>2.2 million). Age and gender specific one-year prevalence rates of ADHD were determined for years 2003 through 2009.

RESULTS: During the study period, the overall one-year ADHD prevalence rate increased from 0.53% to 0.95%. ADHD (hyperkinetic disorder: ICD-10, F90.0, F90.1) prevalence rates were highest in the age group 6-12 years (peak [2008] among nine-year old children, 10.01%; boys, 13.68%), increasing continuously during the observation period (a) age group 6-12: from 4.75% (boys, 6.91%; girls, 2.46%) to 8.01% (boys, 11.04%; girls, 4.82%); (b) age group 13-17: from 1.73% (boys, 2.66%; girls, 0.75%) to 4.22% (boys, 6.27%; girls, 2.02%); adults (age \geq 18 years): from 0.04% (males, 0.05%; females, 0.03%) to 0.17% (males, 0.22%; females, 0.12%).

CONCLUSIONS: The administrative prevalence rate of ADHD in Nordbaden / Germany almost doubled during the six-year study period. From 2003 to 2009, methylphenidate prescriptions in Germany grew even 2.75-fold, thus outpacing the increase in ADHD diagnoses from 2003 to 2009. Further research seems warranted with regard to the underlying dynamics of physician group involvement, health care utilization patterns, and economic implications.

Presented to the 3rd International Congress on ADHD, Berlin / Germany, May 26-29, 2011.