

## **Parental perceptions regarding Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and professional help seeking**

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The study investigates the role of parental perceptions in seeking professional help for children with ADHD and their influence on the under-identification of these children. Parents (N=170) of children with ADHD, aged 6-17, completed the following prior to the announcement of the diagnosis: a) The AD/HD Rating Scale IV, b) The AD/HD Parenting Efficacy in Behaviour Management Scale, and c) a questionnaire examining rates of contact with services. Two thirds of parents with children with AD/HD had already visited another specialist but only half of them reported receiving adequate help. Most of them failed to recognize AD/HD symptomatology. Older children were found to have unmet needs despite contact with services. Symptoms of ADHD are frequently considered as normal developmental characteristics, thus preventing children from accessing available services. Improved training about AD/HD in Greece is urgently needed in order to minimize under-diagnosis of the disorder and provide children with adequate help.