

For your Health and Wellness!



Thank goodness for medicine. Killing our kids with "kindness"! 1 Million children misdiagnosed with ADHD. At least that's what they'll admit to. Who knows what the number really is? That means 1 million kids probably taking stimulant medication for no reason. **Haven't you had enough yet?** Get your kids under **Chiropractic and proper nutrition!** Dr. C. has a packet of info on ADHD, just ask!

On August 17, 2010, various news services reported on a study from Michigan State University that says nearly 1 million children in the United States have possibly been misdiagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) because they were the youngest in their kindergarten class.

Because of their immaturity, they were significantly more likely to be prescribed behavior-modifying stimulants, including Ritalin and Adderal.

In the study of nearly 12,000 children, researcher Todd Elder, assistant professor of economics at Michigan State University, found that the youngest kindergartners were 60 percent more likely to be diagnosed with ADHD than the oldest children in the same grade. Similarly, when that same group of classmates reached the fifth and eighth grades, the youngest were more than two times as likely to be prescribed stimulant drugs.

As a result, the researchers found that "approximately 1.1 million children received an inappropriate diagnosis and over 800,000 received stimulant medication due only to relative maturity."

According to Elder, it's simple. "If a child is behaving poorly, if he's inattentive, if he can't sit still, it may simply be because he's 5 and the other kids are 6. There's a big difference between a 5-year-old and a 6-year-old, and teachers and medical practitioners need to take that into account when evaluating whether children have ADHD."

"Many ADHD diagnoses may be driven by teachers' perceptions of poor behavior among the youngest children in a kindergarten classroom," he said. "But these 'symptoms' may merely reflect emotional or intellectual immaturity among the youngest students."

Elder used the students' birth dates and the states' kindergarten eligibility cutoff dates to determine the youngest and oldest students in a grade. The most popular cutoff date in the nation is Sept. 1, with 15 states mandating that children must turn 5 on or before that date to attend kindergarten.

The results were cut and dried. In Michigan for example, where the kindergarten cutoff date is December 1st, students born on December 1st had much higher rates of ADHD than children born December 2nd because the students born December 1st were the youngest in their grade; the students born December 2nd enrolled a year later and were the oldest in their grade.

As a result, even though the students were born a single day apart, they were assessed differently only because they were compared against classmates of a different age set, Elder said.

Elder said that while teachers cannot diagnose ADHD, their opinions are instrumental in decisions to send a child to be evaluated.

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The paper will be published in an upcoming issue of the Journal of Health Economics in conjunction with a report on a separate study by researchers at North Carolina State University, Notre Dame and the University of Minnesota who came to a similar conclusion.

Compliments of Dr. Robert Caprile, Chiropractor

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