

Title - Attention Problems in Low-Income African American Children: Is it ADHD or Child Traumatic Stress?

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Abstract

This research focuses on attention problems in low-income African American Children.

Research supports that children from low-income households are more prone to have traumatic experiences, and that there is an overlap of symptomology between ADHD and child traumatic stress. In children ADHD and child traumatic stress are both associated with; a lack of concentration in an academic setting, being easily distracted, sleeping problems, hyperactivity, and being unorganized. Research has been conducted examining the link between ADHD and child traumatic stress, but there is still a lack of research on whether attention related problems in low-income African American children are being caused by ADHD or child traumatic stress. It is important that children receive the correct diagnosis in order to receive the proper treatment to reduce or even eliminate presenting symptoms. This research addresses multiple questions including the following: Are low-income African American children being misdiagnosed with ADHD? Are African American children being screened for adverse childhood experiences (ACE) before receiving an ADHD diagnosis? This research included a review of literature and data related to both trauma and ADHD in African American children from low-income households. In conclusion more research is needed to explore attention problems in low-income African American children that have post-traumatic stress symptoms along with an ADHD diagnosis.

Keywords: ADHD, PTSD, ACE

