

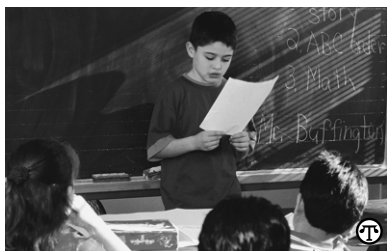
## Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Often Goes Untreated In Hispanic/Latino Individuals

(NAPSA)—While attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, or AD/HD, significantly affects the lives of children and adults across races and ethnicities, studies suggest that Hispanic/Latino individuals, in particular, are often underdiagnosed and undertreated. AD/HD is a scientifically proven brain disorder characterized by chronic inattention, impulsivity and, in some cases, hyperactivity.

“Stigma, lack of appropriate services and language barriers, too often lead to children in the Hispanic/Latino community not being diagnosed and not getting proper treatment for AD/HD,” said José Cordero, MD, MPH, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and a panelist at a recent Capitol Hill briefing on AD/HD. “It, therefore, is very important that we work together to address these problems so that Hispanic/Latino children everywhere can lead fulfilling, healthy and successful lives.”

According to a study published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry, Medical Care and Health Issues in the Latino Community*, Hispanic/Latino individuals use mental health services at less than half the rate of Caucasians. Barriers to mental health care, including diagnosis and treatment of AD/HD, among Hispanic/Latino individuals were identified as:

- Availability of culturally sensitive mental health services
- Differences between Hispanic/Latino individuals and treatment providers in understanding of mental illness and treatment options
  - Language barriers
  - Transportation
  - Financial and insurance



**If left untreated, AD/HD can cause problems at home, school, work and in personal relationships.**

difficulties

- Poor education
- Unemployment
- Perception and stigma associated with mental illness in the Hispanic/Latino community

Further studies suggest Hispanic/Latino individuals are more likely to seek health advice from pediatricians, social workers and religious figures rather than trained mental health professionals, further contributing to the undertreatment of AD/HD in this community.

AD/HD is one of the more common neurobiological disorders affecting three to five percent of school-age children and two to four percent of adults. If left untreated, the disorder can cause problems in daily life, especially at home, school, work and in personal relationships. When accurately diagnosed and treated, however, children and adults with the disorder can lead fulfilling and successful lives.

Children and Adults With Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD) is the nation's leading advocacy organization serving individuals living with the disorder and their families. For more information about AD/HD, visit [www.chadd.org](http://www.chadd.org).