

Press release

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Basic information

Name: Kathrine Bang Madsen Email: kathrine.bang@ph.au.dk Phone: 23831745

Department of: Public Health

Main supervisor: Professor Carsten Obel

Title of dissertation: The pathway to an ADHD diagnosis - Exploring the influence of factors at the structural, community, family and child level

Date for defence: 22 september 2017 at (time of day): 14.00 Place: Søauditorierne, Merete Barker Auditoriet

Press release (Danish)

Store forskelle i diagnosticeringen af ADHD i kommunerne
- Især pigerne overses

I de senere år har den børnepsykiatriske diagnose Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) været livligt debatteret i medierne. Stigninger i antallet af børn der bliver diagnosticeret og behandlet har resulteret i en bekymring for overdiagnosticering og -medicinering af børn. Der har imidlertid været meget lidt fokus på, at mange børn, især piger, med ADHD-problemer *ikke* identificeres og dermed ikke får den rette hjælp. Dette på trods af, at der findes effektive behandlingsmuligheder og at de langsigtede negative konsekvenser af ADHD, personlige såvel som samfundsmæssige, er veldokumenterede.

I ph.d.-projektet er der foretaget en undersøgelse af variationen i diagnosticeringen af ADHD i de danske kommuner for at få en bedre forståelse af, hvorfor nogle børn bliver overset. Resultaterne peger på, at der er meget store forskelle i diagnosticeringen af ADHD i kommunerne. Samtidig viser undersøgelsen at flere faktorer udover barnets ADHD symptomer, herunder socioøkonomi og barnets køn, har indflydelse på processen fra identificering og henvisning til diagnosticering. Denne afhandling bidrager til en bedre forståelse af betydningen af strukturelle, samfundsmæssige, familiemæssige og individuelle faktorer for identificering og diagnosticering af ADHD. Resultaterne af undersøgelsen er sammenfattet i en ny ph.d.-afhandling fra Aarhus Universitet, Health. Projektet er gennemført af Kathrine Bang Madsen, der forsvare afhandlingen den 22/09 2017.

Forsvaret af ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og finder sted den 22/09 kl. 14 i Merete Barker Auditorium (bygning 1253, rum 211), Aarhus Universitet, Bartholins Allé 3, 8000 Aarhus C. Titlen på projektet er "The pathway to an ADHD diagnosis - Exploring the influence of factors at the structural, community, family and child level". Yderligere oplysninger: Ph.d.-studerende Kathrine Bang Madsen, e-mail: kathrine.bang@ph.au.dk, tlf. 23831745.

Bedømmelsesudvalg:

Associate Professor Søren Paaske Johansen, Ph.d
Klinisk Epidemiologisk Afdeling, Aarhus Universitetshospital

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Department of Psychology, Muhlenberg College, Pennsylvania, USA

Department Director, Heidi Aase, Dr. Psych.

Division for Mental Health, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Oslo, Norway

Press release (English)

Large differences of ADHD diagnosed children in the municipalities - Especially girls are overlooked

The child psychiatric diagnosis Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) has been a central issue in the public media in recent years. Increasing rates of ADHD diagnoses and treatment has fuelled concerns about over-diagnosing and unnecessary medicalization of children. However, little attention has been given to the fact that many children with ADHD, especially girls, go undetected and do not receive adequate help. This is happening despite available effective treatments and well-documented knowledge about the negative personal and societal long-term consequences of ADHD. In the PhD project, a study has been made of the variation in the diagnosis of ADHD in the Danish municipalities to get a better understanding of why some children are overlooked. The results indicate that there are very large differences in the diagnosis of ADHD in the municipalities. At the same time, the study shows that several factors in addition to the child's ADHD symptoms, including socioeconomics and gender of the child, influence the process from identification and referral to diagnosis.

This thesis contributes to the understanding of the influence of factors at the structural, community, family and child level in the pathway to an ADHD diagnosis. The results are summarized in a new PhD project from Aarhus University, Health. The project was carried out by Kathrine Bang Madsen, who is defending her dissertation on the 22/09 2017.

The defence is public and takes place on 22/09 at Merete Barker Auditorium (building 1253, room 211), Aarhus University, Bartholins Allé 3, DK-8000 Aarhus C. The title of the project is "The pathway to an ADHD diagnosis - Exploring the influence of factors at the structural, community, family and child level". For more information, please contact PhD student Kathrine Bang Madsen, email: kathrine.bang@ph.au.dk, Phone +45 23831745.

Assessment committee:

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