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The DSM-IV: Frequencies and Type of Axis I Diagnoses Amongst Youth

In this report, we rely on the categorical system called the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition (DSM-IV), which is used to classify mental disorders into types based on features observed in a person, to examine what types of diagnoses children entered Partnership with . The system is “multi-axial” meaning it is broken up into different domains (or Axes), each of which contains different types of mental disorders. We looked at the frequencies and types of “Axis I” diagnoses present in youth upon entry into Partnership. Axis 1 refers to diagnoses that are the focus of clinical attention, also known as “The Clinical Disorders or Other Conditions That May Be a Focus of Clinical Attention.” The findings are based on data from the Administrative Record and include 216 Partnership participants.

Axis 1 disorders are ranked in order of clinical importance, with the 1st diagnosis representing the primary reason for the youth’s visit. Amongst our group, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) was the *most* frequent primary reason for visit, appearing in 32 youth (14.8%). Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD) was the second most frequent reason for visit, appearing in 20 youth (9.3%). Post-traumatic Stress Disorder ranked third, appearing in 14 youth (6.5%). Sixty-seven youth had no Axis 1 diagnosis.

Sixty out of the 216 youth in the sample (27.8%) were identified as having ADHD, although it was not necessarily their *primary* reason for visit. ODD was identified in 54 of the youth (25%) and PTSD was identified in 34 (15.3%). The remaining 83 youth presented with Axis I diagnoses ranging from Major Depressive Disorder to Adjustment Disorder to Dysthymic Disorder (mood disorder with mild depression).

AXIS I DIAGNOSES: FREQUENCIES AND TYPE

	Number of youth diagnosed with ADHD	Number of youth diagnosed with ODD	Number of youth diagnosed with PTSD
1 st Diagnosis	32 (14.8%)	20 (9.3%)	14 (6.5%)
2 nd Diagnosis	25 (11.6%)	24 (11.1%)	12 (5.1%)
3 rd Diagnosis	3 (1.4%)	10 (4.6%)	8 (3.7%)
Total	60 (27.8%)	54 (25%)	34 (15.3%)

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