

Nicole Becker

The ADHD diagnosis: likely but fallible.

In Germany, ADHD diagnostic rates have increased considerably since the 1990s, and no psychiatric condition is diagnosed more often in children and adolescents. However, since the diagnosis appears likely and fallible at the same time, its rising prevalence has prompted a vivid public debate. Although many children seem to fit the picture of the “ADHD-child” by showing behaviors like inattentiveness and impulsivity, they often do not meet clinical criteria for ADHD. Based on a qualitative study carried out in a clinic for child psychiatry, I will explain why this is the case, and describe the practical consequences of the differences between ICD-10 and DSM-V criteria.