

MANAGING STUDENTS WITH OPPOSITIONAL DEFIANT DISORDER

The Facts On Conduct Disorder & ADHD Who Does It Affect?



Conduct Disorder (CD) is a condition in which your child or adolescent shows an ongoing pattern of aggression toward others. They also show serious violations of rules and social norms at home, in school, and with peers.

These rule violations may involve breaking the law. Children with CD are more likely to get injured and may have difficulties getting along with peers.

Signs of Conduct Disorder include:

- Frequently breaking serious rules, such as running away from home, staying out at night when told not to, or skipping school.
- Being aggressive in a way that causes harm, such as bullying, fighting, or being cruel to animals.
- Lying, stealing, or damaging other people's property on purpose.

What's the difference between ODD and ADHD?

Approximately 40% of children with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) also have Oppositional Defiant Disorder or a related Conduct Disorder. While these two conditions commonly occur together, they're distinct conditions.

ODD is related to a child's conduct and how they interact with their parents, siblings, teachers, and friends. ADHD is a neurodevelopmental disorder that causes a person to be easily distracted, disorganized, and excessively restless.

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Who does Oppositional Defiant Disorder affect?

ODD most commonly affects children and teenagers, but it can also affect adults. It most commonly begins by age 8.

Some children outgrow ODD or receive proper treatment for it, while others continue to have symptoms through adulthood.

Children assigned male at birth (AMAB) are more likely to have ODD in their younger years than children assigned female at birth (AFAB). But teenagers who were AMAB and AFAB are affected equally.

Your child is more likely to develop ODD if they have the following risk factors:

- A history of child abuse or neglect.
- A parent or caregiver who has a mood disorder or who has substance or alcohol use disorders.
- Exposure to violence.
- Inconsistent discipline and lack of adult supervision.
- Instability in their family, such as divorce, moving to different houses often, and changing schools frequently.
- Financial problems in their family.
- Parents who have or have had ODD, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or behavioural problems.

How common is Oppositional Defiant Disorder?

- Researchers estimate that Oppositional Defiant Disorder affects 2% to 11% of children. This range is so wide because some children may be misdiagnosed as having Conduct Disorder, and teenagers, as a population, are often underdiagnosed.
- The prevalence of ODD declines with increasing age.

Adapted by Get into Neurodiversity for a global audience.

Source: Cleveland Clinic, a non-profit multispecialty academic medical Centre that integrates clinical and hospital care with research and education US.

