



# The Effect of Parental History and Adverse Childhood Experiences on ADHD Risk

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## Introduction

### Background

- Research shows that parental history of trauma or diagnoses of similar conditions can increase a child's risk of developing attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) (Rowland et al., 2018).
- Research also shows that individuals who experience adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) face increased risk for ADHD (Brown et al., 2017).

### Purpose

This project aims to examine whether:

1. Parental history of ADHD is associated with higher ADHD risk.
2. Parental history of trauma is associated with increased ADHD risk.
3. An individual's ACE exposure exacerbates the effects of parental history of trauma or ADHD on ADHD risk.

## Method

- Participants (n = x) were recruited through TCU's SONA system to complete self-report questionnaires assessing personal and parental ADHD history, parental trauma history, ACE exposure, and ADHD symptoms and diagnosis.
- Participants completed the Adult Self-Report Scale for ADHD Assessment, the Barkely Adult ADHD Rating Scale, the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire, and Adverse Childhood Experiences Questionnaire.

## Results

RESULTS TO BE  
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STUDENT FOR SRS

## Discussion

- Findings [are expected to] show that greater exposure to ACEs is associated with increased ADHD symptoms and likelihood of diagnosis.
- Findings [are expected to] show that parental history of ADHD or trauma is associated with increased ADHD symptoms and likelihood of diagnosis in their children.
- Results emphasize the importance of parental history and the impacts of intergenerational trauma on ADHD risk.
- Results have implications for trauma-informed care and family-based interventions in ADHD treatment.

## Limitations & Future Research

- Cross-sectional design limits the ability to infer causality or directionality.
- Retrospective self-reports may be influenced by biases or current psychological state.
- Research is limited by potential lack of clinical diagnosis of ADHD.
- Future researchers can conduct longitudinal studies to clarify temporal relationships between parental history, ACEs, and ADHD risk.
- Future research can expand to larger, more diverse populations to improve generalizability.

## References

- Brown, N. M., Brown, S. N., Briggs, R. D., Germán, M., Belamarich, P. F., & Oyeku, S. O. (2017). Associations between adverse childhood experiences and ADHD diagnosis and severity. *Academic Pediatrics, 17*(4), 349-35.
- Rowland, A. S., Skipper, B. J., Rabiner, D. L., Qeadan, F., Campbell, R. A., Naftel, A. J., & Umbach, D. M. (2018). Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD): Interaction between socioeconomic status and parental history of ADHD determines prevalence. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, 59*(3), 213-222.