



2021 STUDY CONFIRMS

High Levels of Mental Disorders in Detained Adolescents

Beaudry, Yu, Långström, and Fazel reviewed more than 40 studies from 1966-2019 and confirmed consistently high rates of treatable mental disorders among adolescents in juvenile detention and correctional facilities.

1/5

ADHD

Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is one of the most common diagnoses for detained boys.

1 out of 5 detained youth are diagnosed with ADHD compared to 1 out of 10 in the general adolescent population.

2/3

CONDUCT DISORDER

2 out of 3 detained adolescents are diagnosed with conduct disorder, which is characterized by behavior that violates either the rights of others or major societal norms.²

Symptoms include:

- Aggression to people and animals
- Destruction of property
- Deceitfulness or theft
- Serious violations of rules

2x

DEPRESSION

Rates of depression for detained adolescents are 26% for girls and 10% for boys.

Meanwhile, the rates in the general adolescent population are 11% for girls and 5% for boys.



PTSD

Posttraumatic stress disorder is one of the most common diagnoses for detained girls at a rate of 18%. In the general adolescent population, the rate is 8% for girls.

9% of detained boys are diagnosed with PTSD compared to 2% in the general male adolescent population.

Access to mental health services and effective treatment for detained adolescents is key for our youth and communities.

Learn more about supporting adolescents experiencing justice involvement at health.uconn.edu/trauma-recovery-juvenile-justice



Sources:

1. Beaudry, G., Yu, R., Långström, N., & Fazel, S. (2021). An Updated Systematic Review and Meta-regression Analysis: Mental Disorders Among Adolescents in Juvenile Detention and Correctional Facilities. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, 60(1), 46-60. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaac.2020.01.015>
2. Psychiatry.org - What are Disruptive, Impulse Control and Conduct Disorders? (n.d.). <https://www.psychiatry.org/patients-families/disruptive-impulse-control-and-conduct-disorders/what-are-disruptive-impulse-control-and-conduct>