

# Surge in Children on Dangerous Psychiatric Drugs Not Just a U.S. Problem

*CCHR calling upon lawmakers to take action in light of recent reports highlighting a dramatic increase in the number of children on dangerous psychiatric drugs.*

CLEARWATER, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES, December 11, 2019 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Today in the United States approximately 7.2 million children between the ages of 0 to 17 are using prescription psychiatric drugs, and almost half of them are on drugs due to being labeled with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder ([ADHD](#)). This epidemic of drugging children is not just occurring in the U.S. A recent report revealed that there has been a 500% increase in the number of children prescribed psychiatric drugs over the past decade in Ireland. [1]



Millions of children are given psychiatric labels for normal childhood behavior and prescribed psychiatric drugs that drive them to commit violent acts and suicide.

The psychostimulant, methylphenidate, also known as [Ritalin](#), is one of the drugs prescribed to children who have been labeled as ADHD and comes with such side effects as nervousness, agitation, anxiety as well as psychosis. [2] Methylphenidate is a Schedule II drug, which means the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) classifies it as having a high potential for abuse. At the same time, the DEA warns that methylphenidate produces many of the same effects as cocaine and that psychotic episodes and severe psychological addiction have all been associated with methylphenidate use. [3]

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Parents are not being told the dangers associated with psychiatric drugs and as a result they may too easily give permission for a prescription and regret it much later.”

*Diane Stein, President CCHR  
Florida*

One Dayton, Ohio father recounted how his son had complained of having “dark thoughts” while on drugs for what was labeled as attention deficit hyperactivity. This same father buried his son in 2018 after the teen committed suicide within 3 weeks of having been prescribed an antidepressant with a black box warning.

The father states that the “black box warning was never brought up” and “neither was the fact that the drug prescribed is not FDA-approved for patients younger than 25 and therefore was off-label.” [4]

Outraged at the significant number of children prescribed psychiatric drugs, the [Citizens Commission on Human Rights](#) (CCHR), a non-profit mental health watchdog dedicated to the protection of children, is calling upon lawmakers to take action and hold the psychiatrists prescribing these deadly drugs accountable.

"Parents are not being told the dangers associated with these drugs," said Diane Stein, President CCHR Florida. "True informed consent is not being done and the psychiatrists doling out these drugs need to be held accountable when they violate the law."

As part of a campaign to educate parents on their rights, CCHR hosts regular seminars and workshops on the mental health law, parental rights and the dangerous side effects of psychiatric drugs. To learn more or to reserve seats at the next seminar please call 727-442-8820.

About CCHR: Initially established by the Church of Scientology and renowned psychiatrist Dr. Thomas Szasz in 1969, CCHR's mission is to eradicate abuses committed under the guise of mental health and enact patient and consumer protections. L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology, first brought psychiatric imprisonment to wide public notice: "Thousands and thousands are seized without process of law, every week, over the 'free world' tortured, castrated, killed. All in the name of 'mental health,'" he wrote in March 1969. For more information visit [www.cchrflorida.org](http://www.cchrflorida.org)

Sources:

[1] <https://www.breakingnews.ie/ireland/early-500-increase-in-number-of-children-prescribed-psychiatric-medication-965376.html>

[2] <https://www.rxlist.com/ritalin-side-effects-drug-center.htm>

[3] <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/cchr-alerts-parents-about-new-federal-statistics-showing-rates-of-youth-overdose-deaths-on-adhd-stimulants-and-benzodiazepines-are-greater-than-on-cocaine-300507566.html>

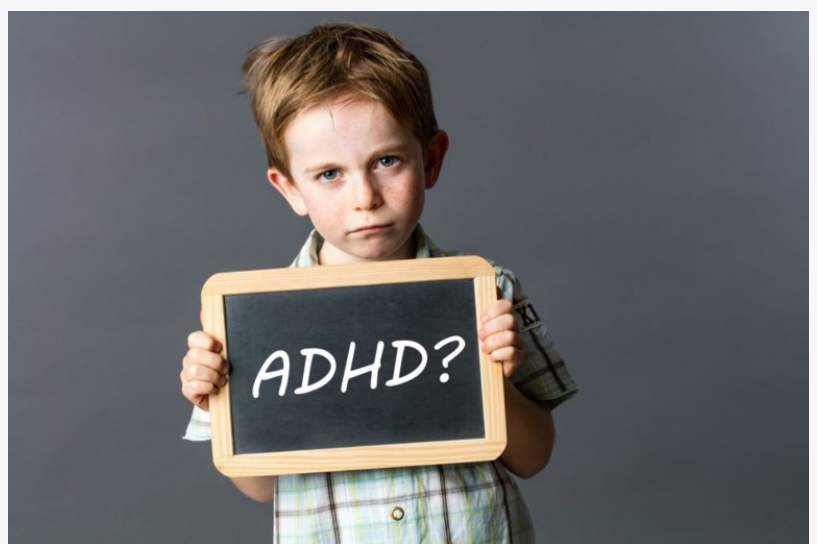
[4] <https://www.daytondailynews.com/news/local/teens-and-antidepressants-what-parents-need-know-about-suicide-warnings/R0m9XBOP5rXsRG1wUBWUcP/>

Diane Stein  
Citizens Commission on Human Rights of Florida  
+1 727-422-8820  
[email us here](#)  
Visit us on social media:  
[Facebook](#)



The headquarters for CCHR Florida are located in downtown Clearwater.





The side effects for Ritalin (methylphenidate hcl), include nervousness, agitation, and anxiety as the top 3 listed effects, as well as psychosis.



Currently over 7 million U.S. children are being prescribed psychiatric drugs, with more than 600 thousand between the ages of zero to five.

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