

The ‘Better Education, Services, and Treatments for People with Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder’ Study (BEST-ADHD): A New Research Study on Personal Experiences of ADHD

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A new research study is underway on what it is like to have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

The BEST-ADHD study, led by researchers at the School of Psychology at NUI Galway and the Irish National Council for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD), is now looking for adult volunteers to take part – men or women aged 18 or over with ADD or ADHD who would like to talk about their experiences of ADHD, education and health care in an individual research interview. There is also an online survey as an alternative to the interview.

The BEST study is needed because education, training, health care supports and treatment services in Ireland ought to be more in tune with the needs of people with ADHD.

International research into the personal experience of ADHD and the impact of support services is only emerging now. The BEST study will help to address the problem of lack of knowledge about ADHD, education, and health care in Ireland, and bring an Irish perspective to these important issues.

It will do this by giving a voice to people with ADHD, and in turn provide an important resource to health care practitioners and teachers.

This study will enable adults aged over 18 who have ADD/ADHD to have their voices heard. We wish to hear about the challenges and supports associated with being a person with ADD/ADHD, with a particular focus on primary, secondary and further education, and on health care encounters. We also want to hear about how people adjust to and manage with ADD/ADHD in their lives. Participation involves a confidential one-to-one interview that will last about one hour, or to respond in written form to open-ended questions on an online survey.

For more information, please contact:

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Information on INCADDS can be found at incadds.ie.

The research collaborators:

INCADDS was set up to address gaps in public knowledge and health care practice, and to support people with ADHD, their parents and families. Based in Galway, it is an umbrella organisation for ADHD Support Groups throughout the country. Support groups provide information, advice, and emotional support to the families of children with ADHD, with some operating additional services. The coordinator of INCADDS is Rose Kavanagh, who was appointed to the Executive Board of the European network of support groups for ADHD in 2015, in recognition of over 15 years working in this area.

The BEST-ADHD study is led by Dr Pádraig MacNeela, a lecturer at the School of Psychology, NUI Galway. Dr MacNeela is a co-leader of the **Community-Engaged Research in Action**

research cluster at the NUIG Institute for Lifecourse & Society. The purpose of this research cluster is to work with voluntary and community groups to identify important research questions and to carry out collaborative research that has a social impact.

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