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### Q&A: Will ADHD Symptoms Improve with Marijuana?

**Question:** We live in a state that has legalized medical marijuana. Our young adult son wants to discontinue his stimulant medication and use marijuana to treat his ADHD symptoms. Is this a good idea?  
-Parents in Pennsylvania

**Answer:** When it comes to your son's health and the treatment of ADHD to improve his life, marijuana cannot treat his symptoms effectively. It can actually make them worse and create greater physical and mental health risks for him, now and in the future. It is not a harmless substance. [Read on.](#)



## Is Genetic Screening the Right Choice for Your Family?

What if a simple cheek swab could tell you if you have ADHD or the potential for another health condition? What if the same swab could collect information that helps you find the right medication and the right dose of that medication without the trial-and-error most people diagnosed with ADHD have to usually go through?



Most people would quickly agree to a helpful and painless genetic screen if it was available. As researchers narrow down the genes or sequence of genes related to ADHD, some people are asking serious questions about the ethics of genetic screening in general. [Read more.](#)

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## When Should Your Child Be Re-Evaluated for ADHD?

As your young teen looks forward to high school, have you considered when might be a good time for a new evaluation for ADHD?

Children diagnosed in elementary school, especially during the first years, could benefit from a new ADHD evaluation. Symptom levels can change over the years and co-occurring conditions can either develop or become clinically diagnosable. Academic accommodations can better meet the needs of the student with an up-to-date diagnosis. [Read on.](#)



## Making a PCS Move When Your Child Has ADHD

While most families are enjoying the summer holiday, you may be among the many military families making a permanent change of station, or PCS, move. Moving means a new state or country, a new home, and new schools for your children. For families affected by ADHD, a PCS includes finding new medical professionals and transferring or reapplying for academic accommodations.

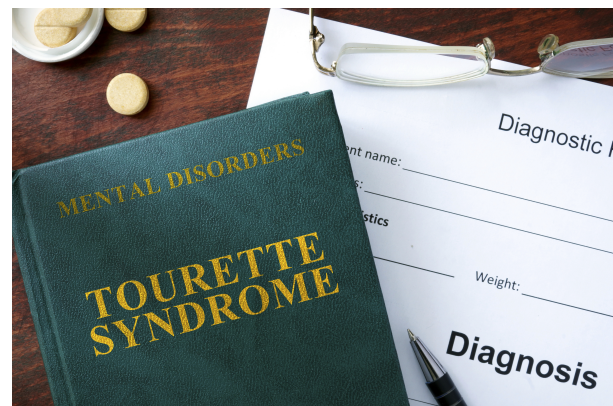
There are 2 million children in school who have at least one parent who is on active military duty, or a member of the National Guard or Reserves, or a veteran. Approximately 10-12 percent of these children are receiving services through special education programs. Active duty military families experience a PCS move on average every two to three years; many families have moved at least once. [Learn more.](#)



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## Dual Diagnosis: Can Your Child Also Have Tourette Syndrome?

About two out of three people affected by ADHD have a co-occurring condition, and about one in 10 individuals with ADHD have a diagnosis of Tourette Syndrome. Tourette Syndrome is a nervous system condition, causing people to experience tics, which are sudden twitches, movements, or sounds that people do repeatedly. People who have tics cannot stop their body from doing these things.



Even though 10 percent of people with ADHD have Tourette Syndrome, about 60-80 percent of those diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome also have a diagnosis of ADHD. In other words, a majority of people diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome have ADHD. Linda, the mother of Lucas, [shared her son's dual diagnosis](#) to help other parents better understand how the two disorders often occur together.

“We first noticed that Lucas had tics in third grade,” she said. “We had our suspicion that he may have Tourette Syndrome, but we were frustrated with finding a doctor who knew about Tourette Syndrome. The tics got worse; then we finally got a diagnosis when he was in the fourth grade.” During the same evaluation, Lucas was also diagnosed with ADHD and obsessive-compulsive disorder. “I wish pediatricians and teachers knew more about TS. It is so important

to identify it early on and send families in the right direction.”

[Read more about Tourette Syndrome and ADHD.](#)

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The logo features a stylized orange sunburst icon to the left of the text "ADHD in the News". "ADHD" is in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, while "in the News" is in a blue, cursive script font.

- Sound sleep elusive for many kids with ADHD
- ADHD and OCD patients differ fundamentally in brain abnormalities
- Drug treatment of hyperactivity in kids may have levelled off in UK
- Are Hispanics less likely to get diagnosed with ADHD in the US?

Read these and other articles in the [ADHD in the News weekly digest](#).

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Did You  
Know?

SAMHSA provides the brochure, [Know Your Rights: Parity for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Benefits](#). Learn how to find out about your health plan benefits and coverage and your right to appeal a claim denial.

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