

## CDS Activities in Progress Are:

### LEGACY for CHILDREN™

The kind of interaction a child has with a parent during the first 5 years of life can set the stage for the child's entire life. Legacy for Children™ is an early intervention research study that focuses on the critical role parents play in developing a child's overall well-being. Through this project, low-income mothers receive support and fellowship from a community of their peers to work through challenges and make a positive impact on their children's development. Legacy endeavors to promote self-efficacy in parents and create a sense of belonging to community.

Intervention activities are designed to enhance sensitive and responsive parenting and parent-child relationships, and to promote a sense of community. These activities include parent and parent-child meetings, visits to the home, and participation in community events.

### ATTENTION-DEFICIT/ HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER

Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is one of the most common childhood neurobehavioral disorders. A person with ADHD has a chronic level of inattention or impulsive hyperactivity, or both to the extent that daily functioning is compromised. The American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual-IV, Text Revision (DSM-IV-TR) estimates that 3% to 7% of children suffer from ADHD. Some studies have estimated higher rates in community samples.

As many as half of those with ADHD also have other disorders that present further challenges. Recognizing that many uncertainties remain concerning prevalence, etiology, and treatment patterns of ADHD, current research activities will shed light on:

- The prevalence and treated prevalence of ADHD in children.
- The existence of comorbid and secondary conditions in children with ADHD.
- The types and rates of health risk behaviors in children with ADHD.
- Current and previous treatment patterns of children with ADHD.

Future research in ADHD will continue to inform public health activities to improve the care for people with ADHD, understand health and health risks to those with ADHD, and explore potential prevention opportunities.



### DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING

In the United States, 17% of children have a developmental or behavioral disability such as autism, mental retardation, or ADHD. However, fewer than 50% of these children are identified as having a problem before entering school, by which time significant delays might have already occurred and opportunities for treatment been missed.

Research has demonstrated that early detection of developmental disabilities and appropriate intervention can significantly improve functioning and can reduce the need for lifelong interventions.

NCBDDD has established the following goals to help children reach their full potential:

- Develop and test community-based model programs in primary care settings (and potentially other settings that care for young children) to screen children early and to refer them for further assessment and intervention as appropriate.
- Increase providers' knowledge of and skills in developmental screening.
- Monitor use of screening in primary care settings.
- Raise awareness about the need for and benefits of developmental screening.

### MATERNAL DEPRESSION

Depression is the leading cause of mental health disability in the United States and affects women at approximately twice the rate of men, with mothers of young children having additional risk. A major barrier to detection and treatment is the lack of a usual source of medical care. Studies have shown that after the birth of a baby, 40% of mothers with young children do not have a regular source of medical care. Because mothers of young children visit pediatric providers on a regular basis, pediatric settings provide a window of opportunity to address maternal mental health concerns.

NCBDDD is working with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and Boston Medical College on a 2 year study funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Office of Women's Health to look at the effectiveness of screening for maternal depression in pediatric settings.

### TOURETTE SYNDROME and RELATED DISORDERS

Tourette syndrome (TS) is a neurological disorder for which there is no known cure. It is believed that TS affects 3 to 5 in every 10,000 individuals, and about 10 in every 10,000 school-aged children. The etiology of TS is unknown, but is considered multifaceted and largely genetic. Boys are more likely than girls to be identified with TS. The onset of TS and tics typically occurs when a child is 6 to 8 years of age, and although TS and tics might appear, disappear, and reappear, these disorders are considered chronic. TS and related disorders can place individuals at higher risk for learning, behavioral, and social difficulties. Several studies have linked TS and tic disorders to higher rates of ADHD, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and impairments associated with these comorbid conditions.

To understand the impact of TS and related disorders and to develop appropriate public health responses, NCBDDD will integrate existing research and program activities, and collaborate with national experts to address the issue of TS.