

**MEDICALIZATION OF SOCIAL
PROBLEMS: IS ATTENTION
DEFICIT/HYPERACTIVITY
DISORDER (ADHD) DIAGNOSIS A
WAY OF SOCIAL CONTROL?**

Faraasa Lawrence
Norbert Ebisike

This Article asks several questions: Are we medicalizing youth behavior? Do we have more cases of Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (“ADHD”) because recent laws restrict what parents and teachers can do to correct children’s behavior? Why are more boys diagnosed with ADHD than girls? In the future, how will medical authority classify certain behaviors as diseases? Section II of this Article provides an overview of ADHD and discusses the emerging trend of medicalizing social problems. Section III focuses on racial, class, and cultural bias inherent in the diagnosis and construction of ADHD. This Section also addresses how current laws contribute to the high number of ADHD cases in the United States. Here, we examine how current laws restrict what parents and teachers can and cannot do in disciplining children. Section

Lawrence, Ebisike

IV addresses whether we are medicalizing youth behaviors. This Article concludes that there is over-diagnosis of ADHD because these diagnoses are being used partly as a way of social control. This approach is not justified because there are alternatives and better ways of social control.