

Scouters Special Needs Awareness

Patch Design By
Wayne Radford



Introduction

Camporee logo by Pat Dannenberg



----- Commissioner

----- Special Needs Commissioner



BSA MISSION STATEMENT

“The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.”



BSA VISION STATEMENT

“The Boy Scouts of America is the nation’s foremost youth program of character development and values- based leadership training.”

“In the future,Scouting will continue to

- Offer young people responsible fun and adventure
- Instill in young people lifetime values and develop them in ethical character as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law;
- Train young people in citizenship,service and leadership;
- Serve America’s communities and families with its quality, values-based program.



Denver Area Council Special Needs District Vision

- **MAKE AWARE**, aspects of special needs that impact youth, as well as leadership through specialized training seminars held by experts in related fields, and interactive web sites.
- **DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS** with youth, parents, leaders , units, and other personnel to be available to answer questions, seek advice and provide resources that provide the best relationship possible.
- **HELP RESOLVE** Special Needs issues by having the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to effectively mediate solutions with a leader, parent and/or youth.
- **PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES** to Special Needs youth in the Denver Area to participate in Scouting programs while exposing Scouts in the Denver Area to Learning for Life program and activity.



The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 defines **Disability** as:

The term “**disability**” means, with respect to an individual

- **A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual;**
- **A record of such an impairment;**
or
- **Being regarded as having such impairment**



Impairment

Any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems



A partial list of Impairments includes:

Lung disease
Heart disease
Muscular dystrophy
Multiple sclerosis
Cerebral palsy cancer
Mental illness
Emotional illness
Learning disabilities
Mental retardation

Diabetes
Arthritis
Asthma
Epilepsy
HIV carriers
Alcoholism
Former drug users
Blind or sight impaired
Deaf or hearing impaired



Fact

It is estimated that 10-18% of the U.S. population falls into a special needs category.



WHAT IS: SUBSTANTIAL LIMIT OF A MAJOR LIFE ACTIVITY?

WALKING
SEEING
HEARING
SPEAKING

BREATHING
WORKING
LEARNING

“IN THE LAST 20 YEARS, THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN CLASSIFIED AS HAVING **LEARNING DISABILITIES HAS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALY. FROM ROUGHLY THREE-QUARTERS OF A MILLION IN 1976 TO MORE THAN 2.6 MILLION IN 1997.”**



ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER (ADHD)

- **ESTIMATED THAT 3-5% OF ALL CHILDREN HAVE ADHD.**
- **IN A CLASSROOM OF 25-30 STUDENTS, IT IS LIKELY THAT AT LEAST ONE WILL HAVE ADHD.**
- **HARD FOR THESE CHILDREN TO CONTROL BEHAVIOR AND/OR PAY ATTENTION.**
- **MAY NOT BE MEDICATED**
- **CHILD MAY NOT BE CATEGORIZED UNDER (IDEA) INDIVIDUAL DISABLED EDUCATIONAL ACT SCHOOL PROGRAMS**
- **27% OF STUDENTS SERVED UNDER “IDEA” HAVE ADHD ALONG WITH THEIR DISABILITY. IT AFFECTS BOYS TWICE AS MUCH AS GIRLS.**

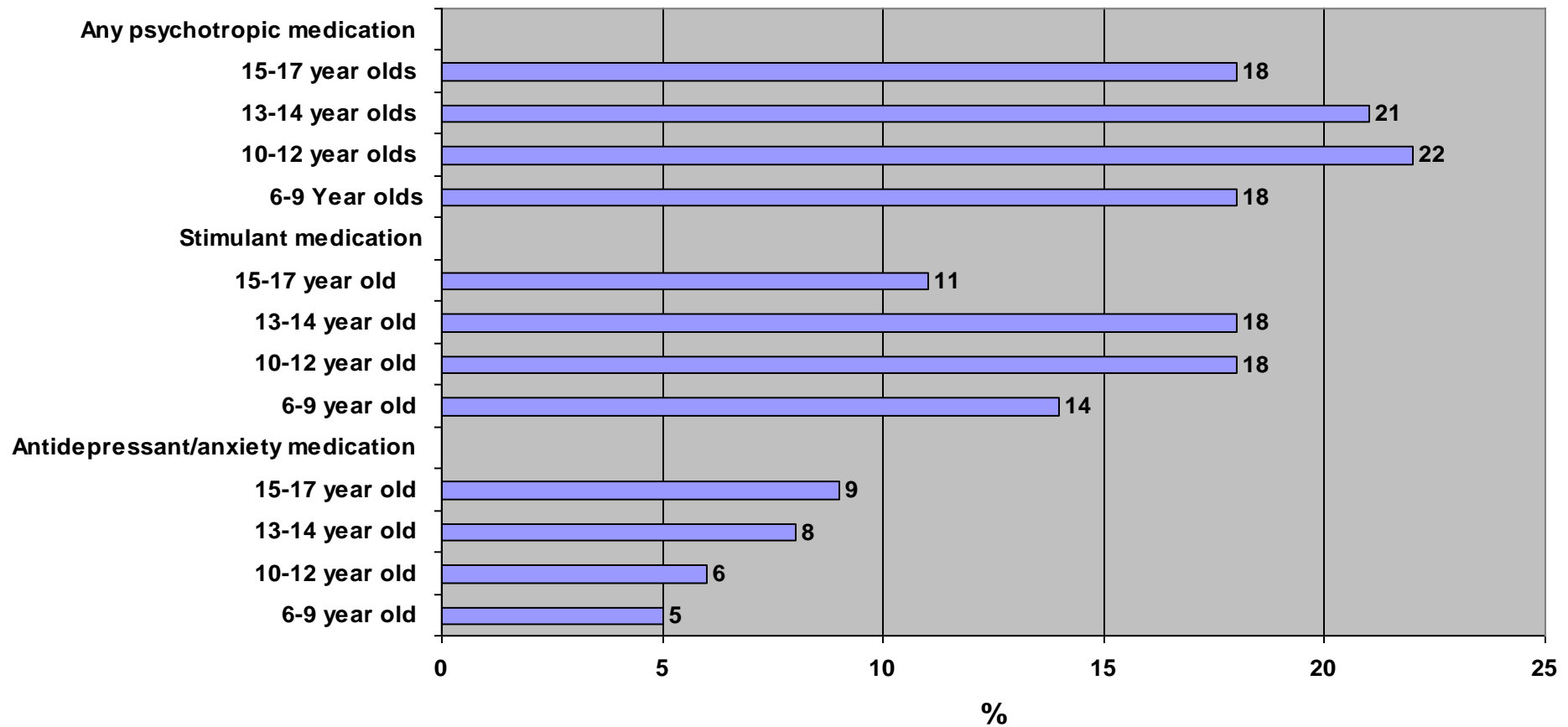


MENTAL HEALTH

- STUDIES SHOW THAT AT LEAST 1 IN 5 CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS HAVE A MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER.
- AT LEAST 1 IN 10, HAVE A SERIOUS EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE



Known medication use for mental and emotional disabilities

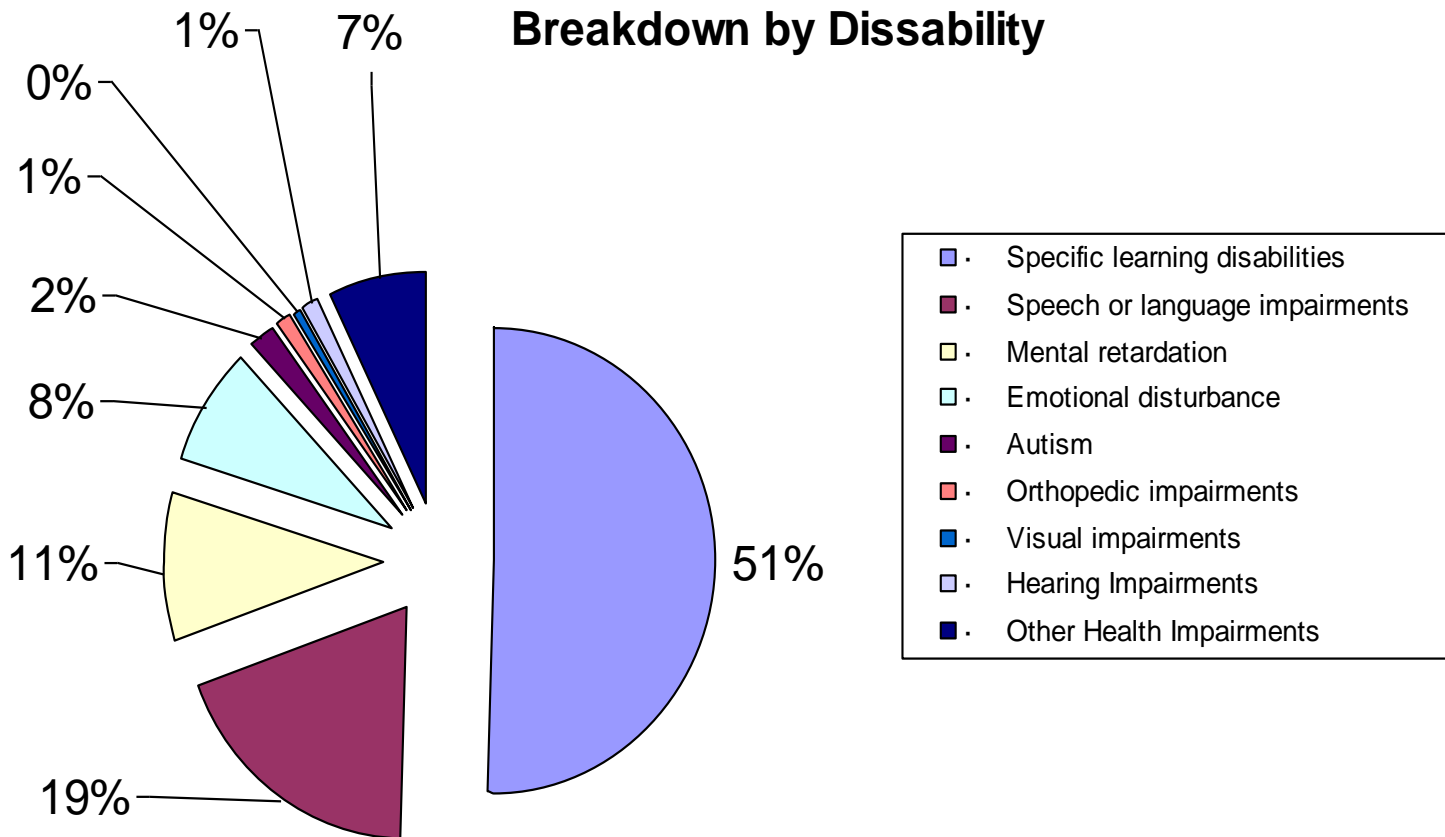


AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

- **Occurs 1 IN every 166 BIRTHS**
- **Inflicts 1 TO 1.5 MILLION AMERICANS**
- **FASTEST GROWING DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY (172% INCREASE SINCE 1990'S)**



What disabilities do students ages 6-21 have who received special education services?



The Bottom Line

- APPROXIMATELY **88%** OF DISABILITIES IN CHILDREN INVOLVE LEARNING AND OTHER COGNITIVE ABILITIES.

- THE MAJORITY OF THESE CHILDREN ARE “**MAINSTREAMED**” INTO A CONVENTIONAL SCHOOL SETTING FOR A MAJORITY OF THE DAY.



Colorado Facts

- 6-17 year old served under IDEA equals 67,992
- This equals 9.2% of all students enrolled In Colorado schools.
- Approximately 2.7 million people live in the footprint that comprises the Denver Area Council. Therefore our estimate is that approximately 40,000 children are served under the IDEA.



Colorado Facts (continued)

- These Numbers are consistent with the 10% of children with disabilities identified in the U.S. Census report who live in the Denver area.
- 48% of these children will drop out of school



WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE A LEADER

AS WITH ANY NEW BOY IN A UNIT, IT IS ADVISABLE TO HAVE A MEETING WITH PARENTS. THIS WILL SET THE PARAMETERS FOR WHAT EACH SIDE CAN EXPECT.

PARENTS CAN EXPECT THAT SCOUT LEADERS WILL DO THEIR BEST TO HELP THEIR CHILD DEVELOP INTO YOUNG MEN WITH STRONG MORAL CHARACTER AND LIFE SKILLS THAT WILL SERVE THEM WELL.



Conclusion

- Your role as a leader is to be aware of all Special Needs youth in your unit regardless whether they have identified themselves.
- Know where to get help and when to give help for our special needs youth
- Refer to the “Scouts with Special Needs Guide” frequently

Visit www.specialneedsbsa.org



Andrea Mosby 303-455-5522

Questions?

