OBJECTIVES: ADHD is a major concern since it is one of the most common mental disorders affecting children and adolescents. The prevalence of ADHD has been reported to be increasing in the past decade. We assessed the trends in prevalence of ADHD drug use in the Netherlands from 2000 until 2010. METHODS: From the PHARMO database, including amongst others, drug dispensing records of approximately 3.2 million inhabitants in The Netherlands, we selected patients with at least one dispensing of ADHD medication including methylphenidate, atomoxetine and d-amphetamine, between 2000 and 2010. For each calendar year, patients were counted as prevalent ADHD drug users if they received a dispensing for ADHD treatment in the respective calendar year. The number of ADHD drug users in the PHARMO database, including amongst others, drug dispensing records of approximately 3.2 million inhabitants in The Netherlands, standardized for age and gender. RESULTS: The prevalence of ADHD drug treatment among males was higher than among females. From 2000 to 2010, the prevalence among children (0–12 years) has increased 2.6-fold in males (from 15.8 to 410 per 10,000) and 4.5-fold in females (from 27.1 to 119 per 10,000). The prevalence among adolescents (13–18 years) has increased 4.0-fold in males (from 170 to 675 per 10,000) and 7.4-fold in females (from 27 to 200 per 10,000). The prevalence among adults (19+ years) has increased 8.2-fold in males (from 8 to 63 per 10,000) and 10.1-fold in females (from 4 to 43 per 10,000). CONCLUSIONS: This study provides a comprehensive overview of trends in prevalence of ADHD drug treatment in The Netherlands. Both in males and females, a continuous increase in prevalence was observed.

PMH15 TRENDS IN PREVALENCE OF ADHD DRUG TREATMENT IN THE NETHERLANDS FROM 2000 UNTIL 2010
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OBJECTIVES: ADHD has become a much debated topic in the last few years. More attention and awareness for ADHD has led to an increase in incidence. Especially awareness for the subtype of ADHD where patients, mostly females, demonstrate predominantly inattentive symptoms, has increased. We determined the male/female incidence ratio of ADHD drug treatment in the Netherlands from 2000 until 2010. METHODS: From the PHARMO database, including amongst others, drug dispensing records of approximately 3.2 million inhabitants in The Netherlands, we selected patients with a first dispensing of ADHD medication including methylphenidate, atomoxetine and d-amphetamine in the period 2000–2010. For each calendar year, the male/female incidence ratio of ADHD drug treatment was calculated by dividing the incidence among males by the incidence among females. Results were stratified by age groups. RESULTS: Overall, the male/female incidence ratio of ADHD drug treatment decreased from 3.41 in 2000 to 1.61 in 2010, meaning a growing proportion of female patients. The largest decrease in the male/female ratio was observed among adolescents (13–18 years: from 4.51 in 2000 to 1.61 in 2010), followed by 9–12-year-olds (from 5.51 in 2000–2.71 in 2010) and 0–8-year-olds (from 6.21 in 2000–3.51 in 2010). Among adults and seniors this ratio fluctuated from 0.91 to 2.11. Although the incidence among females has increased more over the years, the incidence among males remained higher throughout the study period. CONCLUSIONS: This study shows that the proportion of female patients starting ADHD drug treatment is increasing. This is in line with the increased awareness of ADHD among females.

PMH16 MALE/FEMALE INCIDENCE RATIO OF ADHD DRUG TREATMENT IN THE NETHERLANDS FROM 2000 UNTIL 2010
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OBJECTIVES: ADHD has become a much debated topic in the last few years. More attention and awareness for ADHD has led to an increase in incidence. Especially awareness for the subtype of ADHD where patients, mostly females, demonstrate predominantly inattentive symptoms, has increased. We determined the male/female incidence ratio of ADHD drug treatment in the Netherlands from 2000 until 2010. METHODS: From the PHARMO database, including amongst others, drug dispensing records of approximately 3.2 million inhabitants in The Netherlands, we selected patients with a first dispensing of ADHD medication including methylphenidate, atomoxetine and d-amphetamine in the period 2000–2010. For each calendar year, the male/female incidence ratio of ADHD drug treatment was calculated by dividing the incidence among males by the incidence among females. Results were stratified by age groups. RESULTS: Overall, the male/female incidence ratio of ADHD drug treatment decreased from 3.41 in 2000 to 1.61 in 2010, meaning a growing proportion of female patients. The largest decrease in the male/female ratio was observed among adolescents (13–18 years: from 4.51 in 2000 to 1.61 in 2010), followed by 9–12-year-olds (from 5.51 in 2000–2.71 in 2010) and 0–8-year-olds (from 6.21 in 2000–3.51 in 2010). Among adults and seniors this ratio fluctuated from 0.91 to 2.11. Although the incidence among females has increased more over the years, the incidence among males remained higher throughout the study period. CONCLUSIONS: This study shows that the proportion of female patients starting ADHD drug treatment is increasing. This is in line with the increased awareness of ADHD among females.