



Social Skill Acquisition and Performance Problems in ADHD and Autism Spectrum Disorder

Caroline E. Miller, Elia F. Soto, Nicole B. Groves, Elizabeth S.M. Chan, Erica L. Wells & Michael J. Kofler
Florida State University

Introduction

- Children with ADHD demonstrate impairments in social skills (Huang-Pollock et al., 2009; Aduen et al., 2018)
- Deficits in social communication/interaction are hallmark symptoms of ASD (APA, 2013)
- ADHD is the most common comorbidity in children diagnosed with ASD (Antshel et al., 2016)
- **Acquisition deficits** are failures to learn a social skill, and **performance deficits** are inconsistent or incorrect implementation of learned skills (Gresham et al., 2010)
- Important to understand the phenotypic similarity of social problems in ADHD and ASD are due to shared vs. independent behavioral mechanisms

Current Study

- Investigated extent to which social difficulties are related to specific ADHD and ASD symptom clusters
 - Inattentive
 - Hyperactive/Impulsive
 - RRBs
 - Social Communication
- Multiple hierarchical regression models

Tier One
Age, Gender, SES

Tier Two
ADHD and ASD symptoms

Outcome
% Acquisition or % Performance deficits

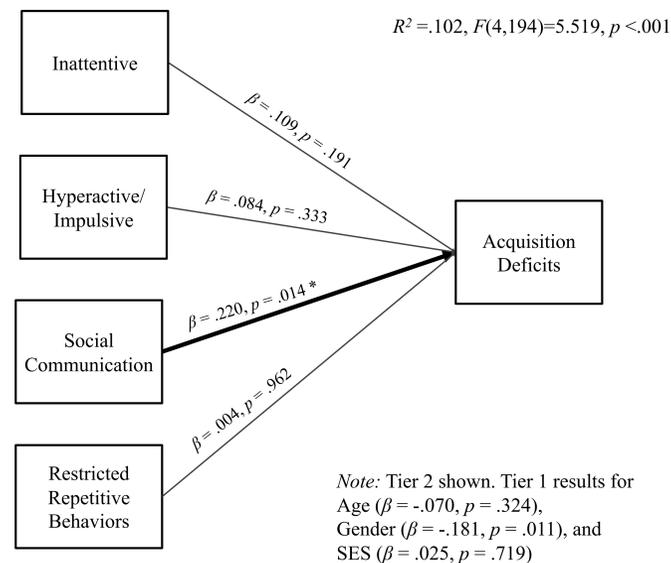
Participant Characteristics

- 202 children aged 8 to 13 years old ($M = 10.33$, $SD = 1.5$) recruited through community resources
 - 72 females (35.64%)
 - 140 White/Non-Hispanic (69.31%), 26 Black/African American (12.87%), 16 Mixed Race (7.92%), 16 Hispanic/Latinx (7.92%), 3 Asian American (1.49%), 1 Native American (0.5%)

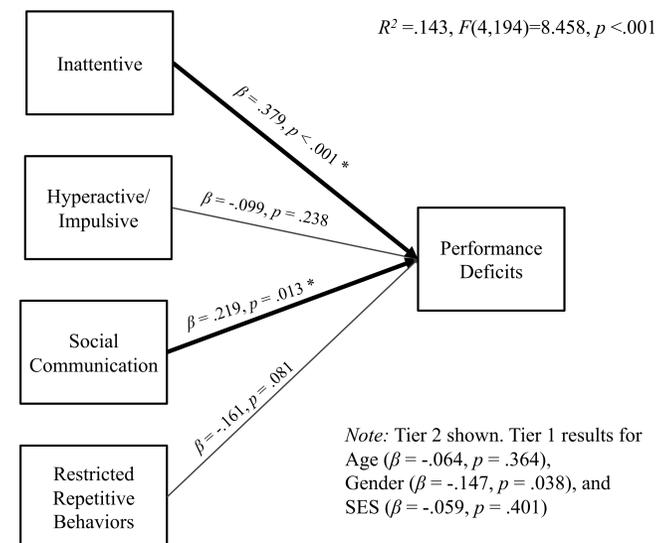
Measures

- Child Symptom Inventory (CSI-V) (Gadow & Sprafkin, 2002)
 - Parent raw scores for ADHD and ASD symptom clusters
- Social Skills Improvement System (SSIS), alternate scoring (Gresham et al., 2010)
 - Teacher reported
 - % Acquisition Deficits
 - % Performance Deficits

Acquisition Deficits



Performance Deficits



Discussion

- Greater social communication symptoms predicted a significantly higher percentage of acquisition and performance deficits
 - Suggests that ASD-related social communication symptoms are related to difficulties in both acquiring and executing social skills
- Greater inattentive symptoms predicted greater social skills performance problems but not greater acquisition difficulties
 - Suggests that children with ADHD-inattentive symptoms have learned age-expected social skills, but have difficulty implementing these skills appropriately in the moment
- **Clinical Implications**
 - Develop and refine social skills interventions for children with ADHD targeting performance
 - Comorbid ADHD and ASD treatment of social skills (e.g., combination of social skill training and treating inattentive symptoms)

