Today’s piece was prepared by Alissa Roberts, based on a Seattle Times article,

“Mood-control Medication for your child?” <http://seattletimes.com/html/health/2023230514_healthmedsxml.html>

This article discusses the apparent rise in psychotropic medication use in children based on statistics from a CDC-sponsored self-report survey regarding overall use of these medications in children, in particular for treatment of ADHD and depression. The author provides helpful guidelines to parents considering such medications for their children.

The article is misleading in a number of ways. The data from the CDC survey were gathered by self-report (which presents inherent biases) and the survey was initiated in 2005 so that it may misrepresent current psychotropic use, Further, the journalist juxtaposes prescription with illicit psychotropic drugs, which may influence the reader to consider the prescription variety negatively by association. As such, the overall tone of the article reads as if to encourage resistance to psychotropic medications, despite the author’s pitch for moderation.

**RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES INTERESTED IN ADHD & DEPRESSION:**

* Children (and Adults) with Attention Deficit Disorders (CHADD)

[www.chadd.org](http://www.chadd.org)

* The Child Anxiety Network

<http://childanxiety.net>

* CDC study with the statistics cited in the article

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db135.htm>

And that’s today’s Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics: IN THE NEWS!