**Thesis statement**

Although some professionals argue that the rise in ADHD prescribed medication is normal and doesn’t raise any concerns, research shows that over misdiagnosed prescribing, the potential addiction, and the business behind the ADHD disorder led by the Big Pharma are all good reasons to be concerned.

**Annotated bibliography**

**Drake, D. (2013, Dec. 16). I overmedicated my kid: No, it isn’t ADHD — Big Pharma’s attention obsession puts children at risk. *Salon*. Retrieved from** [**www.salon.com/2013/12/17/i\_overmedicated\_my\_kid\_no\_it\_isnt\_adhd\_big\_pharmas\_attention\_obsession\_puts\_children\_at\_risk/**](http://www.salon.com/2013/12/17/i_overmedicated_my_kid_no_it_isnt_adhd_big_pharmas_attention_obsession_puts_children_at_risk/)

This article raises concerns on how health professionals are misinformed about the fact that there are many other types of disease that can likely be confused with ADHD. Disorders like auditory processing disorder, sensory processing disorder, developmental visual disorder or even food allergies are examples of problems that are too often misdiagnosed as ADHD. It also talks about how important it would be to include these screenings for these other problems. Daniela Drake is a writer for the *Salon* web magazine and is a Certified Doctor in Integrative and Holistic Medicine. She has a child with that has been misdiagnosed with ADHD. This source is relevant to the thesis statement related to misdiagnoses because it focuses on how many kids may have been misdiagnosed by doctors that had no idea these other disorders even existed.

**Porter, E. (2015, Dec. 11). Misdiagnosis: Conditions That Mimic ADHD. *Healthline.* Retrieved from** [**www.healthline.com/health/adhd/adhd-misdiagnosis**](http://www.healthline.com/health/adhd/adhd-misdiagnosis)

This article is talking about how many medical conditions can mirror ADHD symptoms. The author demonstrates how Bipolar Disorder, Autism, Low Blood Sugar Levels, Sensory Processing Disorders, Sleep Disorders, Hearing Problems and Kids Being Kids can all falsely be seen as ADHD disorder. Eloise Porter was an Editor at *Healthline* web magazine and is now Content Manager at *BayArea.com.* Her article in *Healthline* was revised by Dr. Mark LaFlamme, MD. This source is relevant to the misdiagnoses topic because it shows how children that are misdiagnosed contributes to the concerning rise of ADHD prescription medicine.

**Ford-Jones, P. C. (2015). Misdiagnosis of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: “Normal behavior” and relative maturity. *Paediatrics & Child Health*, 20(4), 200–202.**

This article aims to review findings in the literature surrounding the misdiagnosis of ADHD in children. Given the magnitude of a diagnosis of ADHD, the present review seeks to identify the existent evidence for misdiagnosis and the domains in which misdiagnosis are most frequently understood to occur. Implications and potential knowledge translation tools is also discussed. “Polly Ford-Jones is a PhD student in Health Policy and Equity at York University and is a primary care paramedic. Her primary research interests are in the social determinants of health and mental health, mental health care and social care in the prehospital setting.” *(Tamara Daly Research Team, n.d.)* This article is relevant to the misdiagnoses topic because it shows evidence that relative maturity and developmental age are not consistently being considered in ADHD diagnosis.

**Schwarz, A. & Cohen S. (2013, March 31). A.D.H.D. Seen in 11% of U.S. Children as Diagnoses Rise. *The New York Times.* Retrieved from** [**http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/01/health/more-diagnoses-of-hyperactivity-causing-concern.html?pagewanted=all**](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/01/health/more-diagnoses-of-hyperactivity-causing-concern.html?pagewanted=all)

This article focuses on the rise in ADHD diagnosis. It uses statistics to show how much the disorder has been diagnosed in the recent years compared to 10 years ago. It also raises concerns about how dangerous and addictive Adderall and Ritalin, the two most prescribed stimulants, can be to children and teenagers. “Alan Schwarz is a Pulitzer Prize-nominated National Correspondent at *The New York Times”* *(Wikipedia, n.d.)* and author of the book *ADHD Nation: Children, Doctors, Big Pharma, and the Making of an American Epidemic****. “***Schwarz’s recent reporting has focused on the rising rates of ADHD diagnoses in children and the abuse potential of stimulant medications like Adderall.” *(Wikipedia, n.d.)* This article will help prove with data that children and teenagers are prone to drug addiction if they are prescribed stimulant medication like Adderall and Ritalin. This will help with my second topic, the potential addiction.

**Genetic Science Learning Center. (2013, August 30). Ritalin and Cocaine: The Connection and the Controversy. Retrieved from** [**http://learn.genetics.utah.edu/content/addiction/ritalin/**](http://learn.genetics.utah.edu/content/addiction/ritalin/)

This article compares Ritalin and Cocaine and their similarities. “Because Ritalin is a stimulant like cocaine and it may cause undesirable changes in the brain over time. It is a powerful stimulant that increases alertness and productivity.” *(Genetic Science Learning Center, 2013)* If it is abused or taken improperly, it can be just as addictive as cocaine. “Recent animal studies suggest that children who are mistakenly diagnosed with ADHD and treated with Ritalin may be more likely to develop depression as adults.” *(Genetic Science Learning Center, 2013)* “The Genetic Science Learning Center at The University of Utah is a nationally and internationally-recognized education program that translates science and health for non-experts. In addition to genetics, they address all areas of life science and health as well as other scientific fields.” *(Genetic Science Learning Center, 2013)* This article will be used for the addiction topic to show how stimulant medications can be just as addictive as Cocaine.

**Smith, K. (2015, Nov. 25). Adderall Addiction and Abuse. *Addiction Center.* Retrieved from** [**www.addictioncenter.com/stimulants/adderall/**](http://www.addictioncenter.com/stimulants/adderall/)

In this article, it’s all about addiction. The Author starts by telling us about what Adderall is and what and how the medication works on your brain. She then explains the kind of effects and abuse caused by Adderall. The author then pursues with the types of person that is most likely to abuse Adderall and the combinations that they typically make. The article also talks about withdrawals and detox, treatment and rehab. “Kayla Smith is the editorial director for Addiction Center. After working for years as a journalist, she joined the Addiction Center team in hopes of spreading awareness about addiction and mental health issues and helping people get treatment.” *(Addiction Center, n.d.)*This article is going to be extremely useful with my second topic, the addiction. While being from a credible source, it gives a lot of data about addition to Adderall.

**Morton, W. A., & Stockton, G. G. (2000, Oct. 5). Methylphenidate Abuse and Psychiatric Side Effects. Primary Care Companion to the Journal of Clinical Psychiatry, 2(5), 159–164.**

In this Article, the author talks about how “the clinical picture of stimulant abuse produces a wide array of psychiatric symptoms.” *(Morton, 2000)* Intranasal abuse produces effects rapidly that are similar to the effects of cocaine in both onset and type. “The need for education of all involved with the use of methylphenidate is discussed to help prevent an increasing pattern of methylphenidate abuse.” *(Morton, 2000)* There is “little in the literature to differentiate methylphenidate from other stimulants when they are abused.” *(Morton, 2000)* Dr. W. Alexander Morton is a Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Gwendolyn Stockton is a Senior Medical Science Liaison-Neuroscience at Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc. This article helps understand the addictive effects of Ritalin and will be used as a source for my second topic, the addiction caused by ADHD medication.

**McElrath, K.J. (2016, July 18). Big Pharma Does It Again: ADD/ADHD “Treatment” Is Driving Young People to Suicide. *Drug Safety News*. Retrieved from** [**https://drugsafetynews.com/2016/07/18/big-pharma-addadhd-treatment-driving-young-people-suicide/**](https://drugsafetynews.com/2016/07/18/big-pharma-addadhd-treatment-driving-young-people-suicide/)

This Article focuses on how Big Pharma created ADHD and how they found the cure for the disorder that they created. I also talks about how it evolved from being a treatment for fatigue, depression and narcolepsy to Hyperactivity to finally the disorder that we all know today, ADHD. “K.J. McElrath is a former history and social studies teacher who has long maintained a keen interest in legal and social issues.” *(McElrath, 2016)* This article is going to help proving how the Big Pharma is behind ADHD. I’ll use the statistic in the article to help support my third topic: The business of ADHD by the Big Pharma.

**Gaffney, A. (2016, Sept. 23) How ADHD Was Sold. *New Republic.* Retrieved from** [**https://newrepublic.com/article/137066/adhd-sold**](https://newrepublic.com/article/137066/adhd-sold)

This article is telling us how the ADHD disorder started and was sold by the Big Pharma. It’s pointing out the fact that the addictive potential of amphetamines was well known in the 50’s. Big Pharma first sold it as a weight loss and anti-depressant. It quickly became an epidemic. The Adderall was first sold under the brand name Obetrol. It was sold as a weight loss medicine. Adam Gaffney is a physician and writer with a focus on health care politics, policy, and history. He is a pulmonary and critical care physician at the Cambridge Health Alliance. He’s also an advisor to the board of the single-payer advocacy organization Physicians for a National Health Program. This article will help support my third topic by providing strong arguments and facts on how ADHD is just another business opportunity for the Big Pharma.

**Schwarz, A. (2013, Dec. 14). The Selling of Attention Deficit Disorder. *The New York Times.* Retrieved from** [**http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/15/health/the-selling-of-attention-deficit-disorder.html?pagewanted=all&\_r=0**](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/15/health/the-selling-of-attention-deficit-disorder.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0)

This article explains how ADHD is being sold by the Big Pharma. They started by selling to the doctors by saying that their drugs were harmless and that they should be used to treat ADHD. Then they built a message, to better sell the drug to the parents. They then pushed the frontier and started targeting adults with ADHD. “Alan Schwarz is a Pulitzer Prize-nominated National Correspondent at *The New York Times”* *(Wikipedia, n.d.)* and author of the book *ADHD Nation: Children, Doctors, Big Pharma, and the Making of an American Epidemic****. “***Schwarz’s recent reporting has focused on the rising rates of ADHD diagnoses in children and the abuse potential of stimulant medications like Adderall.” *(Wikipedia, n.d.)* This article will be used to explain how the drugs are sold and the marketing behind it. It will be a great source to prove how evil the Big Pharma can be behind the scenes when it comes to make money.