

# American Kids are the Most Medicated in the World

(www.mercola.com)

American children are about three times more likely to be prescribed psychotropic medication than children in Europe. The differences may be a result of differing regulatory practices, along with cultural beliefs about the role of medication in emotional and behavioral problems.

A team of researchers from the U.S., Germany and the Netherlands investigated prescription levels in the three countries. Antidepressant and stimulant use was three or more times greater in the U.S. than in the Netherlands and Germany, while antipsychotic prevalence was 1.5 to 2.2 times greater.

The researchers pointed to different diagnostic classification systems, government cost restrictions in Europe, the larger number of child psychiatrists per capita in the U.S. and the use of two or more different psychotropic drugs in a single year in U.S. children as possible explanations. Direct-to-consumer drug advertising, which is common in the U.S., was also considered to be a likely reason for the difference.



## Sources:

- Science Daily September 25, 2008
- Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health September 25, 2008, 2:26

## U.S. Culture Encourages Drugged-Up Children

From a very young age, sometimes even before they leave the hospital at birth, kids are given medicine. Antibiotics for colds and ear infections (even though they [don't work for this purpose](#)), pills for indigestion, fever, headaches, the flu, and in some cases even for simply acting out.

Kids are taught that in order to “feel better” they need to go to the doctor and get a prescription. Or they need to go to the corner drugstore and get some type of liquid gel-cap to “cure” them. To make matters worse, kids are exposed to TV commercials, some with animated characters and talking animals, pedaling drugs to their parents and sometimes [directly to teens](#).