ADHD in treatment seeking patients with a substance use disorder
van de Glind, G.

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PART 1
INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER 1
THE CONCEPTS SUD AND ADHD
AND THE LINK BETWEEN
THese TWO DISORDERS

CHAPTER 2
AIMS AND OUTLINE
OF THIS THESIS

b ob Dylan
s ubterranean Homesick b lues
Album: s ubterranean Homesick blues

1) Johny's in the basement
mixing up the medicine
I'm on the pavement
Thinking about the government
The man in the trench coat
badge out, laid off
says he's got a bad cough
wants to get it paid off
look out kid
It's somethin' you did
God knows when
but you're doin' it again
You better duck down the alley way
lookin' for a new friend
The man in the coon-skip cap
In the big pen
wants eleven dollar bills
You only got ten.

2) maggie comes fleet foot
face full of black soot
Talkin' that the heat put
Plants in the bed but
The phone's tapped anyway
maggie says that many say
They must bust in early m ay
orders from the DA
look out kid
Don't matter what you did
walk on your tip toes
Don't try, 'no Doz'
better stay away from those
That carry around a fire hose
keep a clean nose
watch the plain clothes
You don't need a weather man
To know which way the wind blows.

3) Get sick, get well
Hang around an ink well
Ring bell, hard to tell
If anything is goin' to sell
Try hard, get barred
Get back, write braille
Get jailed, jump bail
Join the army, if you failed
look out kid
You're gonna get hit
by users, cheaters
six-time losers
Hang around the theaters
Girl by the whirlpool
lookin' for a new fool
Don't follow leaders
watch the parkin' meters.

4) Ah get born, keep warm
short pants, romance, learn to dance
Get dressed, get blessed
Try to be a success
Please her, please him, buy gifts
Don't steal, don't lift
Twenty years of schoolin'
And they put you on the day shift
look out kid
They keep it all hid
better jump down a manhole
light yourself a candle
Don't wear sandals
Try to avoid the scandals
Don't wanna be a bum
You better chew gum
The pump don't work
'cause the vandals took the handles.
Part 1 - Introduction

Introduction Part 1

Substance use disorders (SUDs) are highly prevalent in the general population throughout the world (Rehm et al., 2009; Shield et al., 2013; Degenhardt & Hall, 2012). Importantly, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is overrepresented in subjects with SUD in the general population (Kessler et al., 2005; Tuithof et al., 2012). This thesis focuses on treatment seeking SUD patients with and without ADHD. Treatment seeking SUD patients are a special subpopulation of all people with a SUD, because only a subgroup of all people with a SUD in the general population seeks treatment via addiction treatment centers. Furthermore, this subgroup differs according to the primary substance of abuse (with lower treatment seeking proportions in people with an Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) compared to those with a Drug Use Disorder (DUD; Van Amsterdam & Van den Brink, 2012) and by country due to differences in availability and accessibility of addiction treatment services (figure 1.1).

![SUD in the general population](image1)

![Alcohol Use Disorders: treatment seeking behavior](image2)

![Drug Use Disorders: treatment seeking behavior](image3)

*Figure 1.1: Treatment seeking lifetime-SUD patients: only a small part of the general population has SUD and only a small part of these seek treatment (estimates for the purpose of illustration).*
In general, the treatment seeking subgroup of people with a SUD is expected to be more severe and to have more comorbidity (Berkson’s bias; Berkson, 1946) and to have a less favorable course (Clinicians’ illusion; Cohen & Cohen, 1984) than SUD patients in the general population. Hence, findings from the current study cannot be generalized to people with SUD in the general population.

Moreover, this thesis does not focus on the entire group of treatment seeking SUD patients, but instead focuses on the subgroup of treatment seeking SUD patients with comorbid ADHD (see figure 1.2). Only a minority of the total number of treatment seeking SUD patients meets criteria for adult ADHD (Van Emmerik- van Oortmerssen et al., 2012; see chapter 4). However, this amounts to millions of patients worldwide. It is therefore important to study the clinical characteristics and risk factors of individuals with ADHD that developed a SUD, and to further investigate the magnitude of this phenomenon.

Figure 1.2: Treatment seeking SUD patients with ADHD, only a small part of the treatment seeking SUD patients (estimates for illustrative purposes).

In Part 1 of this thesis, the concepts of SUD and ADHD and the link between these two disorders will be introduced (chapter 1). Thereafter the aims and the outline of the thesis will be presented (chapter 2).