

Conduct Disorder

- **By:** Sajid Humayun
 - **In:** [The SAGE Encyclopedia of Abnormal and Clinical Psychology](#)
 - **Chapter DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781483365817>
 - **Subject:** [Clinical Psychology \(general\)](#)
 - **Keywords:** [adolescence](#); [antisocial behavior](#); [children](#); [conduct disorders](#); [disorders](#); [epigenetics](#); [risk factors](#)
-

- [Hide page numbers](#)

Conduct disorder (CD) is a broad and overarching term describing a condition in which a child or young person persistently engages in antisocial behavior that violates the rights of others, such as fighting, using a weapon, physical cruelty to people or animals, running away from home, and stealing with the use of force. CD has sometimes been defined separately from oppositional defiant disorder (ODD), which is a less serious variant typically seen in younger children and involving high levels of irritable mood, temper tantrums, and refusal to carry out instructions. CD and ODD are the most common mental health disorders in childhood and adolescence and the most common reasons for referral to child and adolescent mental health services in the Western world...