

# Screen time linked to autism spectrum disorder in boys

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(HealthDay)—Screen time is significantly associated with autism

spectrum disorder among boys at age 3 years, according to a study published online Jan. 31 in *JAMA Pediatrics*.

Megumi Kushima, from the University of Yamanashi in Chuo, Japan, and colleagues examined the association between [screen time](#) in infancy and development of [autism spectrum disorder](#) at age 3 years using data from 84,030 mother-child dyads in a large birth cohort in Japan. Screen time was measured at age 1 year.

The researchers found that at age 3 years, the prevalence of children with [autism spectrum](#) disorder was 392 per 100,000 (0.4 percent) and boys were three times more likely than girls to be diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. Compared with no screen time, among boys, the adjusted odds ratios were 1.38 (95 percent confidence interval [CI], 0.71 to 2.69;  $P = 0.35$ ) for less than one hour; 2.16 (95 percent CI, 1.13 to 4.14;  $P = 0.02$ ) for one hour to less than two hours; 3.48 (95 percent CI, 1.83 to 6.65;  $P$

"The main finding of this study was that, among boys, a statistically significant association was found between longer screen [time](#) at 1 year of age and autism spectrum disorder at 3 years of age, irrespective of potential maternal maltreatment or predisposition to autism spectrum disorder at 1 year of age," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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