

Maternal obesity may be related to risk for ADHD in children

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(HealthDay)—Mothers with a body mass index (BMI) of 25 kg/m² and greater are more likely to see behavioral problems and psychiatric symptoms in their children, according to a study recently published in *The Journal of Pediatrics*.

Sonia L. Robinson, Ph.D., from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, and colleagues compared the BMI measurements of mothers of 7- and 8-year-old children (1,386 and 1,484 children, respectively) in the Upstate KIDS study to the rates of attention-deficit/[hyperactivity disorder](#) (ADHD) and anxiety and severity of behavioral problems in their children. The authors evaluated behavioral problems using the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (at age 7) and the Vanderbilt ADHD Diagnostic Parent Rating Scale (at age 8).

The researchers found that compared with mothers with a BMI of

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