

NEWS

# Children with autism and ADHD often have additional mental health conditions

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Children who have both autism and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are also more likely to experience anxiety, depression, developmental delays, learning disabilities and other mental health conditions than are children with only autism or ADHD, according to a new population-based **study**.

The results draw on data from more than 6 million children aged 3 to 17, collected from 2016 to 2018 by the U.S. **National Survey of Children's Health**, an annual questionnaire that asks parents about their children's medical diagnoses and treatments. Among those children, 949,367 have autism, 4,570,320 have **ADHD**, and 740,816 have both conditions.

Children in the last category are four times as likely to have **anxiety** and three times as likely to have **depression** as autistic children without ADHD. They are also four times as likely to have a learning disability and seven times as likely to have developmental delay compared with children who have only ADHD, the researchers found.

"If we know that children who have co-occurring conditions are more likely to have depression or anxiety, then the treatment can be geared to help ameliorate the symptoms," says lead researcher **Myriam Casseus**, a research scientist in the pediatrics department at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

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if(void 0 !== e.data["datawrapper-height"]){  
var t=document.querySelectorAll("iframe");  
for(var a in e.data["datawrapper-height"]){  
for(var r=0;r
```