

## Autism and ADHD are genetically linked

A trio of studies make the strongest case to date that autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) share similar genetic causes.

The findings could help explain why [up to 80 percent](#) of children with autism also meet the criteria for ADHD.

Several studies have shown that autism and ADHD [co-occur in families](#), but researchers have yet to identify overlapping genes.

“It’s a conundrum,” says [Amir Miodovnik](#), a pediatrician at Maimonides Medical Center in New York, who was not involved in the studies. “That’s why people are continuing to try to show the genetic linkage in different ways.”

One of the new studies explores the genetic basis of autism and ADHD traits in the general population, another examines how autism and ADHD co-occur in families, and the third reveals how features of autism relate to those of ADHD. Together, they show that the two conditions are closely related.

“The overlap is not a bias, it’s not an artifact; it’s real,” says [Jan Buitelaar](#), professor of psychiatry at Radboud University in the Netherlands, who led one of the studies.

**The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post:** [Shared genetic pathways underlie autism, attention deficit](#)