

# Children of battered parents more likely to have ADHD

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Children of parents reporting intimate partner violence and depressive symptoms within the first three years of a child's life are significantly more likely to have a diagnosis of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, according to a study published online Feb. 4 in *JAMA Pediatrics*.

(HealthDay)—Children of parents reporting intimate partner violence (IPV) and depressive symptoms within the first three years of a child's life are significantly more likely to have a diagnosis of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, according to a study published online Feb. 4 in *JAMA Pediatrics*.

Nerissa S. Bauer, M.D., M.P.H., from Indiana University in Indianapolis, and colleagues analyzed data from 2,422 children participating in a [prospective cohort study](#) that linked parental IPV and depression with subsequent billing and pharmacy data from Nov. 1, 2004, to June 7, 2012.

The researchers found that, before children were aged 3 years, 2.4, 2.8, and 29.1 percent, respectively, of caregivers reported IPV and [depressive symptoms](#), IPV only, and depressive symptoms only, while 65.7 percent reported neither exposure. There was a significantly increased likelihood of a child having a diagnosis of attention-deficit/[hyperactivity](#) disorder (adjusted odds ratio, 4.0) if their parents reported both IPV and depressive symptoms, even after adjustment for the child's sex, race/ethnicity, and insurance type. There was an increased likelihood for a child to have been prescribed psychotropic medication if their parents reported depressive symptoms (adjusted odds ratio, 1.9).

"Exposure to both IPV and depression before age 3 years is associated with preschool-aged onset of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder; early exposure to parental depression is associated with being prescribed psychotropic medication," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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