

## **AAAAI: obese girls appear to be more prone to atopic disease**

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(HealthDay)—Obese girls may face a significantly higher risk for

developing allergies, according to research presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, held from March 3 to 6 in Atlanta.

The investigation focused on 113 children (45 percent girls, 55 percent boys), about a quarter of whom were obese (23 percent). All were deemed to be relatively healthy. Medical histories were taken to assess for a range of allergic conditions, including asthma, food allergies, [allergic rhinitis](#), and [atopic dermatitis](#). The children were then given allergy scores, with those struggling with more [allergic conditions](#) getting higher scores.

The researchers found that obese girls had allergy scores higher than normal-weight girls: 4.00 versus 2.62. In contrast, obese boys were found to have slightly lower allergy scores than normal-weight boys: 3.00 versus 3.42.

"These results were highly significant, even after adjusting for the effects of age and race," study coauthor Sairaman Nagarajan, M.D., M.P.H., a resident physician in the department of pediatrics at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in New York City, told *HealthDay*. "We hypothesize that there are hormonal differences causing girls to have higher atopy."

**More information:** [Press Release](#)  
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