 wore defined as adults living in the same household as the child and assuming primary caregiving roles.

Measures of Psychopathology:

- Achenbach System of Empirically-Based Assessment (ASEBA)
  - Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL): independent parent report on child
  - Adult Self-Report (ASR): parent reporting on self
  - Adult Behavior Checklist (ABC): parent report on co-parent

Parents were defined as adults living in the same household as the child and assuming primary caregiving roles.

Analysis:

- Pearson Correlations were performed comparing the difference of parent ASR scores to the difference in their respective CBCL scores in categories of internalizing, externalizing, Total, and Syndrome Specific categories.

- Similar analyses were performed using levels of parental symptoms as assessed by the co-parent.

### Results

**Correlation of Difference in Parental Scores to Child Scores:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Syndrome Specific Categories</th>
<th>Parent-Evaluated Scores</th>
<th>Internalizing</th>
<th>Externalizing</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attention Problems</td>
<td>internalizing</td>
<td>0.280**</td>
<td>0.352**</td>
<td>0.349**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>externalizing</td>
<td>0.292**</td>
<td>0.374**</td>
<td>0.368**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>total</td>
<td>0.306**</td>
<td>0.374**</td>
<td>0.393**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:**

Parents who struggle with their own emotional-behavioral problems tend to report higher levels of behavioral problems in their children, relative to the reporting of the co-parent.

The association above occurs across different types of parental and child psychopathology, with the exception of increased parental rule-breaking behavior where under-reporting of child psychopathology may occur.

Systematic assessment of parental psychopathology is recommended as a part of a standard child psychiatry evaluation.

**References**


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