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Attachment Style and Mental Health Profiles of Parents Caring for a Child with Autism: Suicidal Ideation, Depression and Anxiety.

Authors: Shlaverman, Oren; Zhang, Yanyan¹

Affiliation: ¹College of Health Professions, MSW Social Work Program, Chamberlain University, 3005 Highland Pkwy, 60515, Downers Grove, IL, USA
²Grace Abbott School of Social Work, Omaha, USA

Source: [Journal of Autism & Developmental Disorders](#) (J AUTISM DEV DISORD), Nov2022; 52(11): 4872-4882. (11p)

Publication Type: Article - research, tables/charts

Language: English

Major Subjects: [Autistic Disorder - In Infancy and Childhood](#)
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Minor Subjects: [Human: Male: Female: Child: Cross Sectional Studies: Surveys: Avoidance \(Psychology\): Sociodemographic Factors: Marital Status](#)

Abstract: The study investigated association between attachment style of parents with a child diagnosed with Autism and mental health. A cross-sectional web-based survey collected data from 184 parents of individuals with autism. Findings from the study indicated association between an avoidant and anxious attachment style and mental health. Mainly, a link between avoidant attachment style and parents' levels of suicidal ideation and depression, an association between anxious attachment style and the parent's level of suicidal ideation, depression and anxiety. Several sociodemographic variables were associated with suicidal ideation and mental health. Specifically, we identified impacts of child's race on suicidal ideation, marital status on depression as well as impact of education on anxiety. Implication for future research, assessment and treatment are presented.

Journal Subject: Biomedical; Peer Reviewed; USA



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