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BMI Associations Between Mother and Offspring From Birth to Age 18: The Fels Longitudinal Study

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Significant BMI Correlations Between Mothers and Offspring: The Fels Longitudinal Study
Stacie Swanton
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Research Objective
• Investigate the BMI associations between mothers and offspring from birth to age 18

Introduction
• Parental influence on offspring BMI has been shown to be present at various ages
• There is a stronger maternal than paternal BMI correlation during infancy and early childhood
• Parental obesity is a risk factor for offspring obesity

Methodology
• The Fels Study began in 1929, observing the growth, maturation, and body composition of its’ participants
• The current study sample included 6,263 mother/child pairings

Results
• Mother/son BMI correlations became significant at boys age 5-6 years through age 18
• Mother/daughter correlations became significant at age 1.5 years through age 18

Conclusion
• Mother/daughter relationship was more strongly correlated than the mother/son, and became significant at an earlier age than boys