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Distinct brain network features predict internalizing and externalizing traits in children and adults

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Abstract

Internalizing and externalizing traits are two distinct classes of behaviors in psychiatry. However, whether shared or unique brain network features predict internalizing and externalizing behaviors in children and adults remain poorly understood. Using a sample of 2262 children from the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) study and 752 adults from the Human Connectome Project (HCP), we show that network features predicting internalizing and externalizing behavior are, at least in part, dissociable in children, but not in adults. In ABCD children, traits within internalizing and externalizing behavioral categories are predicted by more similar network features concatenated across task and resting states than those between different categories. We did not observe this pattern in HCP adults. Distinct network features predict internalizing and externalizing behaviors in ABCD children and HCP adults. These data reveal shared and unique brain network features accounting for individual variation within broad internalizing and externalizing categories across developmental stages.

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Introduction

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A classic distinction in child and adolescent psychiatry has been the study of “internalizing” and “externalizing” behaviors¹. These two broad classes of psychopathology were first proposed by T.M. Achenbach from a factor analysis of symptoms in children and adolescents with psychiatric illness². Internalizing behaviors are internally directed towards the individual and manifest in their extreme form as sadness, withdrawal, somatic complaints, and anxiety, while externalizing behaviors are directed towards the external environment and involve disruptive, aggressive, impulsive, and defiant behaviors³. The expressions of internalizing and externalizing behaviors exhibit cross-generational associations between parents and children⁴⁻⁶. These behaviors have also been linked with reduced school engagement and an increased risk for suicide attempts in childhood and adolescence⁷⁻⁹, as well as worse work performance and lower cognitive abilities in adulthood^{10,11}. However, the neural underpinnings associated with internalizing and externalizing behaviors across distinct developmental stages remain poorly understood.

Throughout development, functional connectivity patterns within and between large-scale brain networks can predict individual differences in cognition¹², impulsivity¹³ and psychiatric symptoms^{14,15}. While individual-level variability in the functioning of large-scale brain networks can predict individual differences within broad categories of cognition, personality and mental health in both children and adults^{16,17}, macroscale patterns of brain functioning are dynamic across the lifespan¹⁸⁻²⁰. The transition from childhood through adolescence to adulthood reflects critical neurodevelopmental stages characterized by a protracted period of synaptic pruning, intracortical myelination, cortical thinning, and functional network segregation^{18,21}. Therefore, it is unclear if the specific brain-behavior relationships observed in childhood mirror those identified in adulthood. Furthermore, although shared network features account for individual variation within broad classes of behavior¹⁶, individual-specific patterns of functional network connections may predict even finer-grained categories, such as internalizing and externalizing behaviors. Here, we aimed to examine the extent that functional network-based predictors of internalizing versus externalizing behaviors were similar across a large sample of children and their parents. We further tested whether such patterns can be observed in an independent sample of young adults.

In the present study, we predicted internalizing and externalizing measures of psychopathology in a sample of children (and their parents) from the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) study²² using children’s functional connectivity patterns across four brain states: resting-state, monetary incentive delay (MID) task²³, stop signal task (SST)²⁴ and

86 emotional N-Back task²⁵. We further explored functional connectivity predictors of internalizing
87 and externalizing behavior in an independent cohort of young adults from the Human
88 Connectome Project (HCP)²⁶, using resting-state fMRI connectivity matrices. Both single- (KRR)
89 and multi-kernel ridge regression (multiKRR) models revealed network-based features that were
90 predictive of behaviors within the same category were more correlated with each other than with
91 those across different categories in ABCD children and parents, while KRR models showed a
92 lack of categorical distinction in HCP adults. Moreover, predictive network features were distinct
93 across the two samples. These results support internalizing and externalizing behaviors as
94 distinct factors of psychopathology and suggest that brain-based predictive features may
95 change across the lifespan.
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Results

ABCD Results

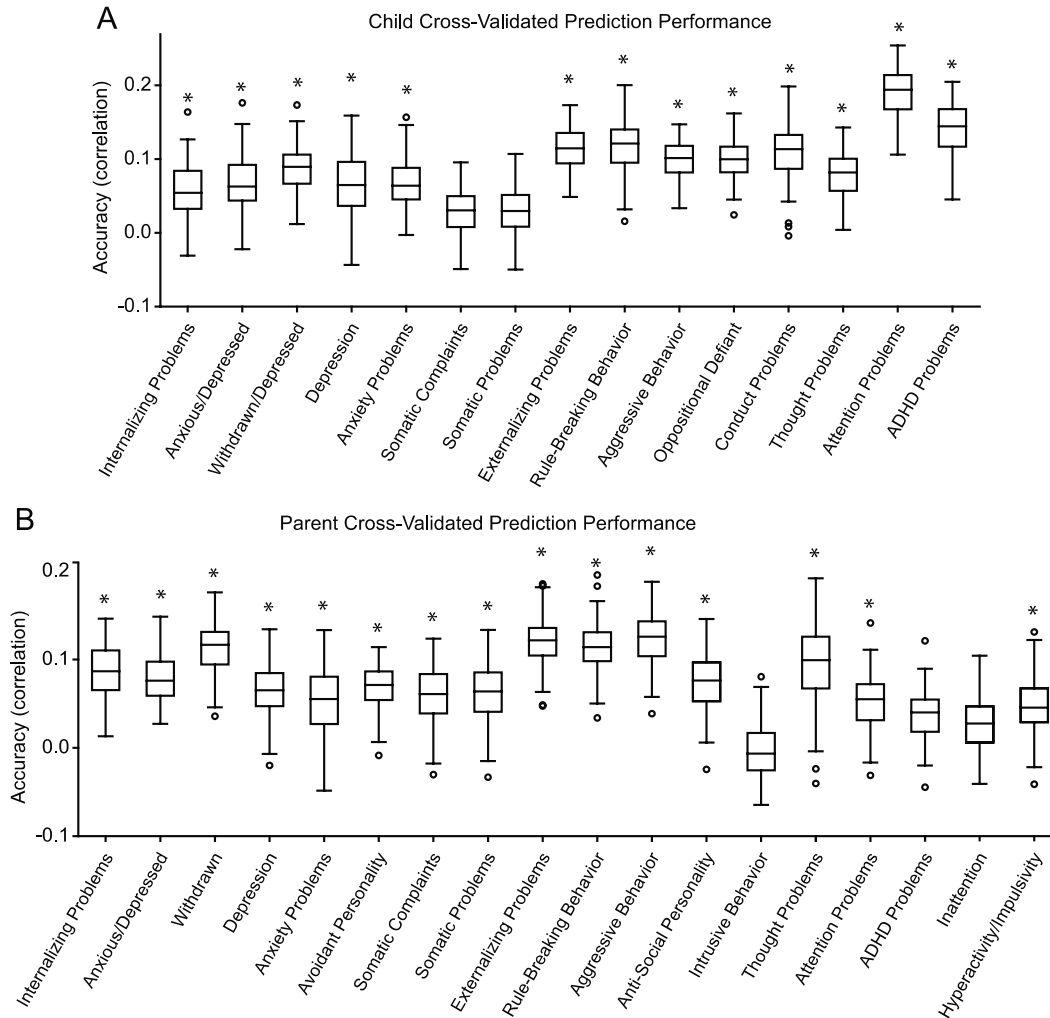
We used fMRI data acquired across three task states, including monetary-incentive delay (MID), stop-signal task (SST) and N-back, as well as resting state fMRI from N=11,875 typically-developing children (ABCD 2.0.1 release²²). Our analyses considered 33 dimensional measures from the available mental health assessments collected from child participants and their parents²⁷, comprised of 15 measures of internalizing problems, 10 measures of externalizing problems, 2 measures of thought problems and 6 measures of attention problems (Supplementary Table 1). The final analytical sample consisted of n=2,262 unrelated children who passed fMRI quality control and had complete data (see Methods).

Multi-kernel ridge regression predicts most behavioral measures

We defined 400 cortical and 19 subcortical regions-of-interest (ROIs) based on Schaefer Parcellation^{28,29} and computed a 419 by 419 functional connectivity (FC) matrix for each brain state. Following prior work¹⁶, we used multi-kernel ridge regression (multiKRR) models to predict each behavioral measure from child-specific FC matrices concatenated across brain states. To evaluate predictive accuracy, we performed nested cross-validation procedures with 120 folds (see Methods). Pearson's correlation between predicted and actual behavioral scores and coefficient of determination (COD; see Supplementary method S3) were used as accuracy metrics. Statistical significance of prediction accuracy was assessed by permutation testing.

Prediction accuracies -- given by Pearson's correlation -- of the models trained on children's functional connectivity data are shown in Fig. 1A (for behavioral predictions in ABCD children) and Fig. 1B (for behavioral predictions in ABCD parents). Most behavioral measures were predicted better than chance after FDR correction ($q < 0.05$), except for child somatic complaints and somatic problems, parent intrusive behavior, parent ADHD problems and parent inattention (see Methods). Parent ADHD problems became significantly predicted after FDR correction when COD was used as the accuracy metric. Prediction accuracies were broadly stable across both metrics (see Supplementary Fig. 1 for COD results). Notably, these findings demonstrate that patterns of FC specific to each child can significantly predict their parent's self-reported internalizing and externalizing behaviors (Fig. 1B).

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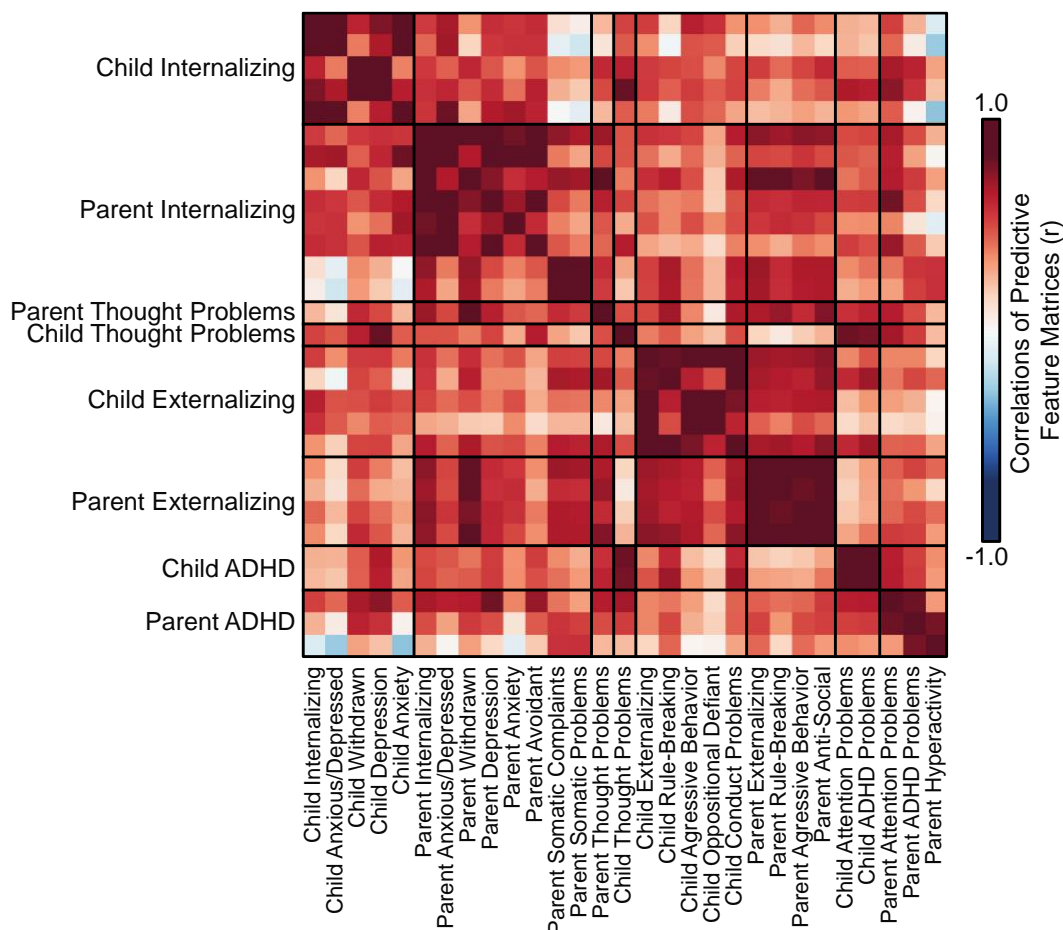
128 **Figure 1.** Cross-validated prediction performance using the multi-kernel ridge regression
129 (multiKRR) model, using functional connectivity matrices concatenated across four brain states
130 (resting state, MID, SST and N-back) from children's neuroimaging data to predict (A) parent-
131 reported child behavior and (B) self-reported parent behavior. Prediction performance was
132 calculated as the mean Pearson's correlation between observed and predicted values across
133 120 cross-validation folds for each behavioral measure from the ABCD dataset. For each
134 boxplot, the top and bottom edges represent upper and lower quartiles of correlation coefficient
135 (r) distributions, and the horizontal lines mark the corresponding median. Outliers are plotted as
136 circles and were defined as data points outside of the interquartile range. The whiskers extend
137 to the most extreme data points not considered as outliers. Asterisks (*) denote above-chance
138 significance after correcting for multiple comparisons (FDR $q < 0.05$).

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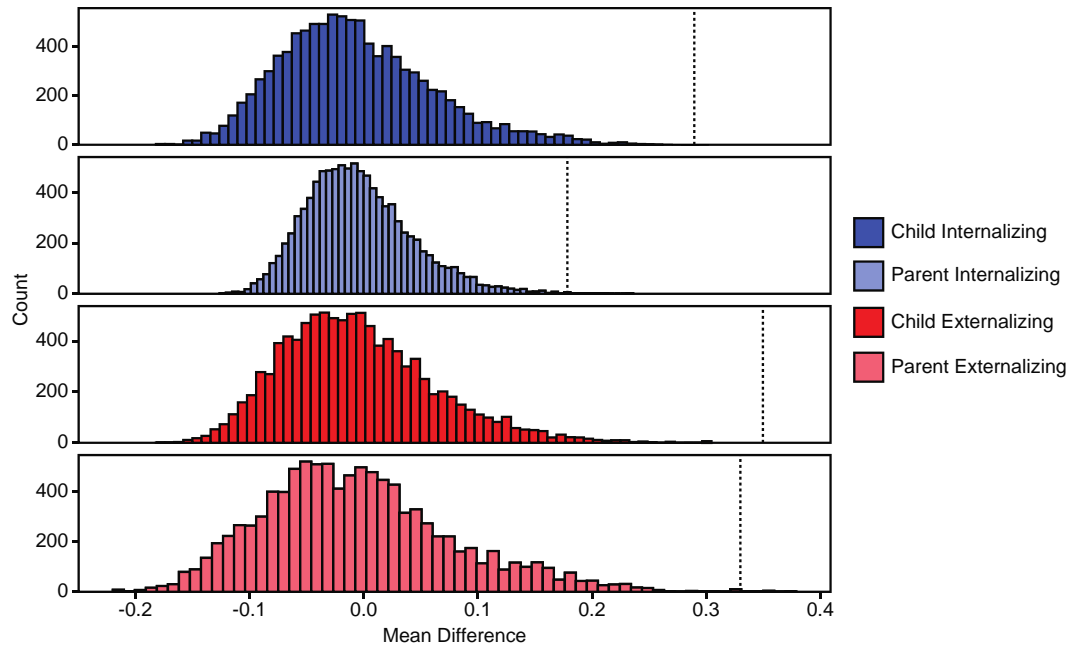
140 ***Predictive brain network features are more similar within behavioral categories***

141 There is broad consistency in the brain network features predictive of mental health-
142 relevant traits¹⁶. Here, we sought to determine if internalizing and externalizing behaviors
143 exhibited unique predictive network markers in childhood. At each cross-validation fold, we
144 quantified “feature importance” (i.e., how important a given network-based predictor was to the
145 model) of each interregional FC edge predicting each behavior using Haufe-transformed (see
146 Methods) predictive feature weights³⁰, yielding a 419 by 419 predictive feature matrix for each
147 behavior and for each brain state.

148 Next, we analyzed whether predictive feature weights computed from multiKRR model
149 outputs were more similar among behaviors within than between categories (Fig. 2). The
150 predictive feature weight vector for each behavioral measure was averaged across all four brain
151 states and correlated with all other measures. Focusing on each of the four internalizing and
152 externalizing categories (Child Internalizing, Child Externalizing, Parent Internalizing and Parent
153 Externalizing), the difference between mean correlation within each category (“within-category
154 mean correlation”) and mean correlation with all other three categories (“between-category
155 mean correlation”) was computed 10000 times and used to generate a null distribution of mean
156 differences (Fig. 3; see Methods). Mean within-category correlations of predictive feature
157 weights were significantly higher than mean between-category correlations (FDR $q_s \leq 0.002$; Fig.
158 3). The above analyses were rerun using KRR models using only resting-state fMRI and yielded
159 similar results (Supplementary Fig. 2-3). Notably, the similarity pattern of predictive feature
160 weights across behavioral measures was highly correlated with the similarity pattern of these
161 behavioral measures on the behavioral level (Supplementary Fig. 4; $r=0.97$).



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163 **Figure 2.** Predictive-network features are similar within behavioral categories. Pearson's
164 correlation (r) of predictive feature weights between all pairs of behavioral measures
165 significantly predicted by multiKRR models in the ABCD study. Behavioral measures from the
166 same behavioral categories are grouped together. Warmed colors indicate stronger positive
167 correlations of the mean predictive feature weights between a pair of behavioral measures,
168 indicating that these behavioral measures were predicted by similar functional connectivity
169 patterns.
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172 **Figure 3.** Correlations of predictive feature weights computed from multiKRR outputs were
173 significantly stronger across behavioral measures within the same category than between
174 different categories. Differences between within- and between-category mean correlations for
175 child and parent internalizing and externalizing categories were significantly greater than the null
176 distributions (FDR $q_s \leq 0.002$). Correlation values were converted to z-scores using Fisher's r-to-
177 z transformation prior to averaging. Histograms display null distributions of mean differences
178 generated through 10000 permutations with shuffled behavioral labels. Dashed lines represent
179 observed mean differences for each of the four categories.
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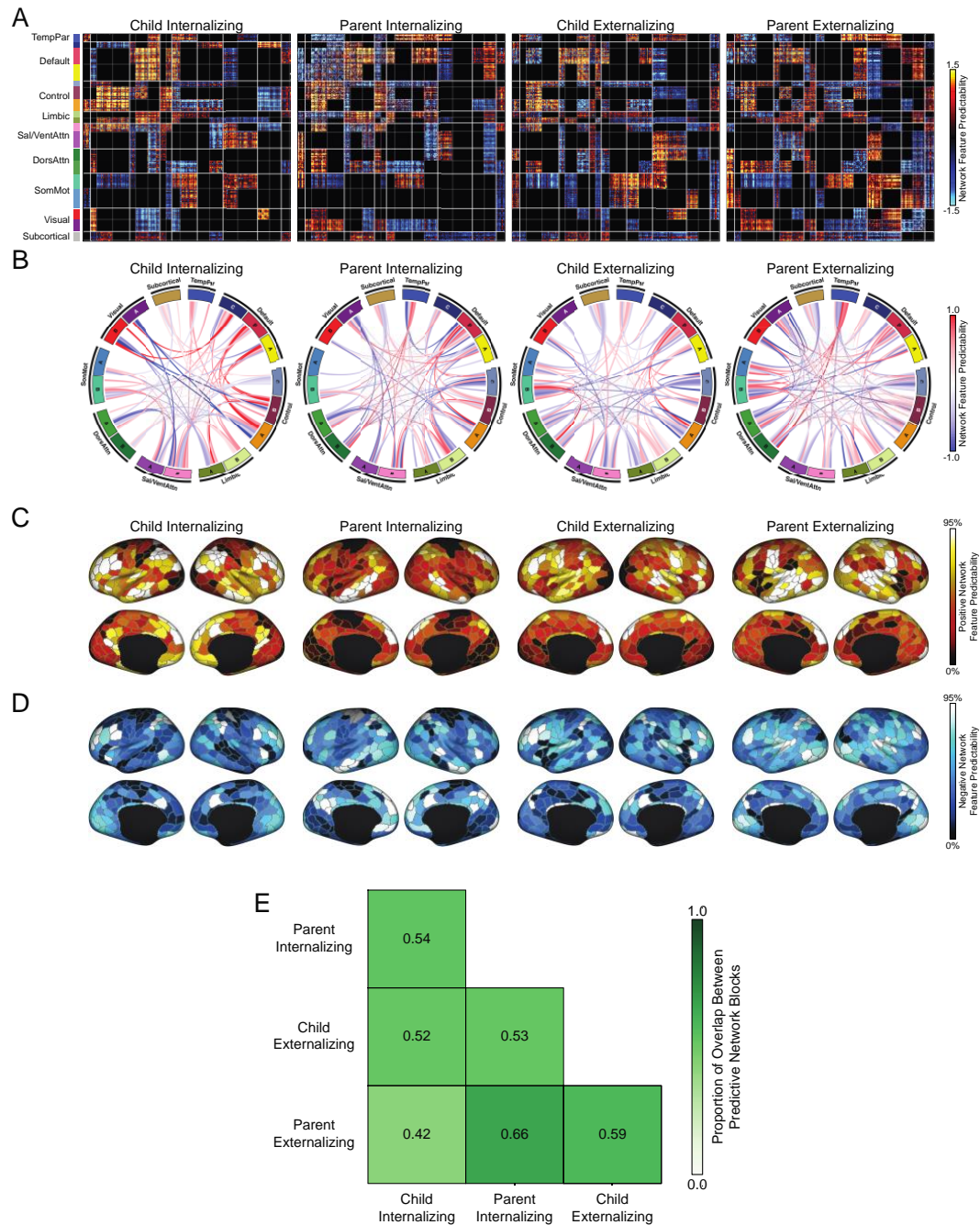
182 ***Distinct brain network features in children predict internalizing and externalizing***
183 ***behaviors in both children and their parents***

184 Prior work suggests the presence of shared network features across broad categories of
185 mental health¹⁶. Our analyses revealed unique parcel-level FC profiles predicting distinct
186 aspects of psychopathology. Next, we examined the extent that some predictive-network
187 features may be shared across behavioral categories. Predictive feature matrices were
188 averaged across all behavioral measures within each category, resulting in 32 predictive feature
189 matrices (one for each behavioral category and each brain state). To limit the number of
190 multiple comparisons, predictive feature weights were averaged within and between 18
191 networks (following the 17-network partition in Yeo et al., 2011³¹ plus one subcortical network²⁸)
192 at each permutation. Permutation testing was performed on mean predictive feature weights
193 from each of the resulting 171 unique network blocks. We also conducted a conjunction analysis
194 to extract the predictive feature weights that were not only statistically significant but also
195 exhibited consistent directionality (positive or negative) across all brain states, and then
196 averaged these predictive feature weights across all brain states (Fig. 4A). These analyses
197 yielded predictive feature weights that are both shared across behavioral measures within a
198 category and across brain states (Fig. 4B). Predictive feature weights were summed across
199 each row in Fig. 4A and plotted on brain surface in Fig. 4C for the positive weights and Fig. 4D
200 for the negative weights. These figures reveal that both shared and unique FC patterns predict
201 distinct behavioral categories in both children and their parents.

202 To examine the extent to which these predictive features are similar across behavioral
203 categories in children and their parents, we next calculated the proportion of overlapping
204 network blocks which significantly predicted each pair of behaviors (Fig. 4E). Two network
205 blocks were counted as overlapping if sums of predictive feature weights within these network
206 blocks exhibited consistent directionality. Of note, the observed predictive features were not fully
207 distinct across children and parents. The largest proportion of overlap was 0.66 between parent
208 internalizing and externalizing categories, while the lowest proportion of overlap was 0.42
209 between child internalizing and parent externalizing categories. Proportions of overlap between
210 other four category pairs ranged from 0.50 to 0.60, demonstrating the presence of both common
211 and distinct patterns of predictive-network features across categories. As one example, the
212 proportion of network blocks that exhibit the same directionality across child and parent
213 internalizing categories was 0.54.

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217 **Figure 4.** Shared and unique functional network features predict internalizing and externalizing
 218 behaviors in children and their parents. (A) Matrices of predictive feature weights, averaged
 219 across all behavioral measures within each child and parental internalizing and externalizing
 220 categories, and averaged across all brain states. Only weights that were statistically significant
 221 and that exhibited the same directionality across all brain states are shown. Rows and columns:
 222 predictive weights based on FC estimates of all pairwise cortical regions. For visualization

223 purposes, all predictive feature weights were divided by their standard deviation. (B) Predictive
224 feature weights averaged based on network assignment in panel (A). (C) Positive predictive
225 feature weights summed across rows of panel (A) for each cortical region. A more positive value
226 indicates that stronger functional connectivity associated with a given cortical parcel predicts
227 higher behavioral scores in a behavioral category. (D) Negative predictive feature weights
228 summed across rows of panel (A) for each cortical region. A more negative value indicates that
229 weaker functional connectivity associated with a given cortical region predicts higher behavioral
230 scores in a behavioral category. In both panels (C) and (D), the color of each cortical region
231 indicates the percentile of predictive feature weights among 400 regions. (E) The 2D grid
232 displays the proportion of network blocks that exhibit the same directionality across each pair of
233 child behavioral categories relative to the behavioral category represented by each column.
234 Here, each within- and between-network block was coded as 1, 0 or -1 depending on whether
235 sum of predictive feature weights within that block is greater than, equal to or lesser than 0,
236 resulting in an 18 by 18 matrix for each behavioral category. The number of network blocks
237 having the same non-zero entries across both matrices associated with each pair of behavioral
238 categories was counted and divided by the total number of non-zero significantly predictive
239 network blocks.
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242 ***Single-kernel ridge regression predicted most behavioral measures in adults***

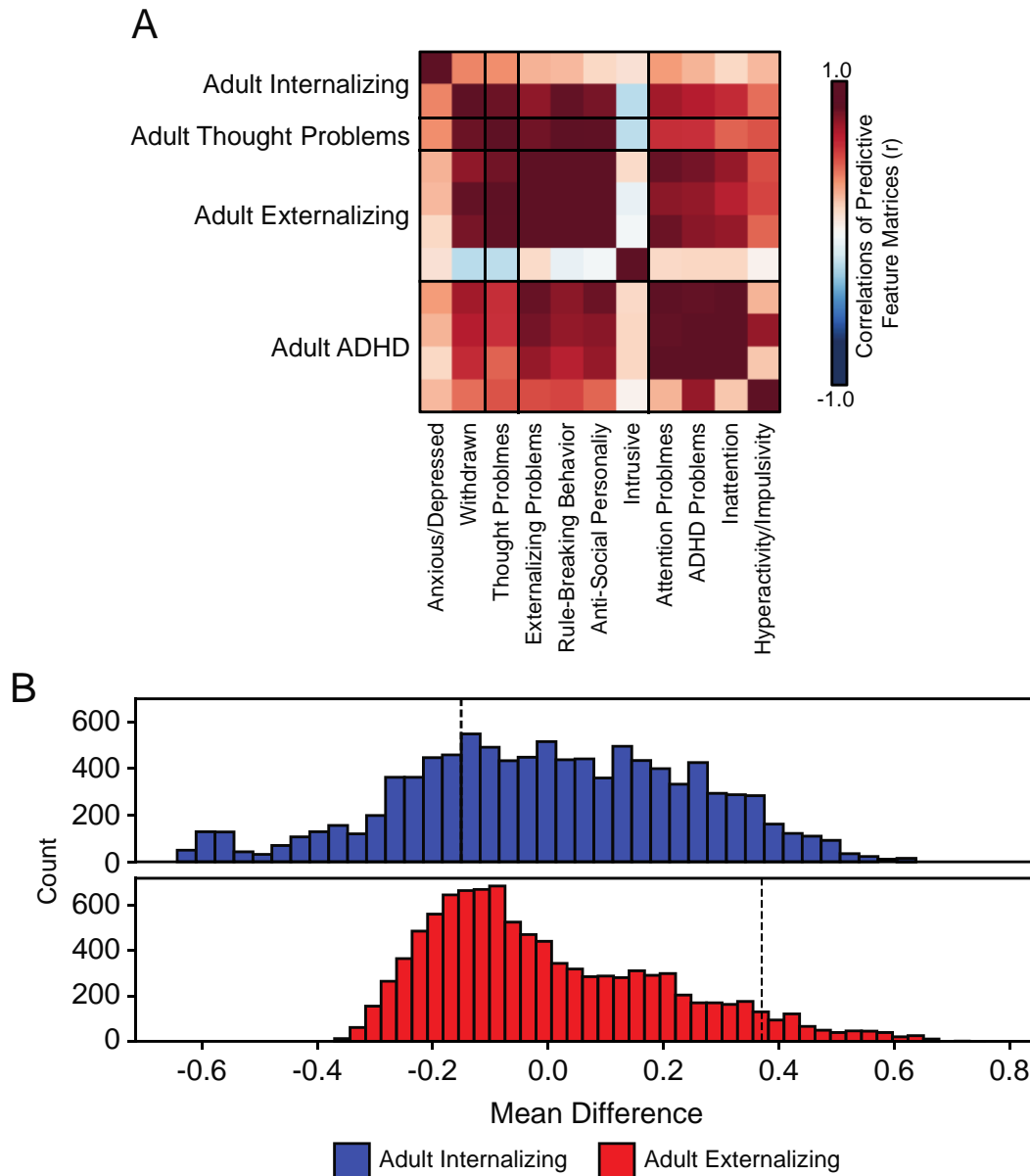
243 To examine brain-based predictive network features in adults, we used resting-state
244 fMRI data from the HCP WU-Minn S1200 sample (n=752) and analyzed 18 dimensional
245 measures from the Achenbach Self-Report³². There were 8 measures of internalizing problems,
246 5 measures of externalizing problems, 1 measure of thought problems and 4 measures of
247 attention problems (Supplementary Table 2; see Methods). All analysis steps were performed
248 as above, except that single-kernel ridge regression (KRR) models were used to predict each
249 behavioral measure from subject-specific resting-state FC due to the lack of task fMRI data in
250 the HCP. Given that the HCP was not collected across different sites, we implemented 60
251 random initiations of 10-fold nested cross-validation.

252 Prediction accuracies – given by Pearson’s correlation – of the KRR models across all
253 behaviors are shown in Supplementary Fig. 6. Although most behavioral measures were
254 predicted better than chance after FDR correction ($q < 0.05$), only two out of eight behavioral
255 measures under the internalizing category survived FDR correction (Supplementary Fig. 6).
256 When COD was used as the accuracy measure, only withdrawn, aggressive behavior, and
257 attention problems reached better-than-chance accuracy after FDR correction (Supplementary
258 Fig. 7).

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260 ***Predictive brain network features are similar across behavioral categories in adulthood***

261 As above, we examined similarity patterns of predictive feature weights calculated from
262 KRR model outputs across behaviors within and between different categories (Fig. 5). In
263 contrast to the ABCD analyses, predictive feature weights were highly correlated across
264 categories (Fig. 5; Supplementary Fig. 9). We then conducted a permutation test similar to the
265 ABCD analyses, focusing on adult internalizing and externalizing categories. Mean within-
266 category correlations of predictive feature weights were not significantly different from mean
267 between-category correlations (FDR $q_s > 0.12$; Fig. 5B). These results suggest that predictive
268 network features associated with internalizing and externalizing behavior in adults are broadly
269 consistent between behavioral categories. Although network features predicting intrusive
270 behavior were weakly correlated with those predicting other measures, it is not surprising given
271 the weak correlations between intrusive behavior and other measures on the behavioral level.
272 The observed similarity pattern of predictive feature weights across behaviors was moderately
273 correlated with the similarity pattern of these measures on the behavioral level (Supplementary
274 Fig. 8; $r = 0.59$).

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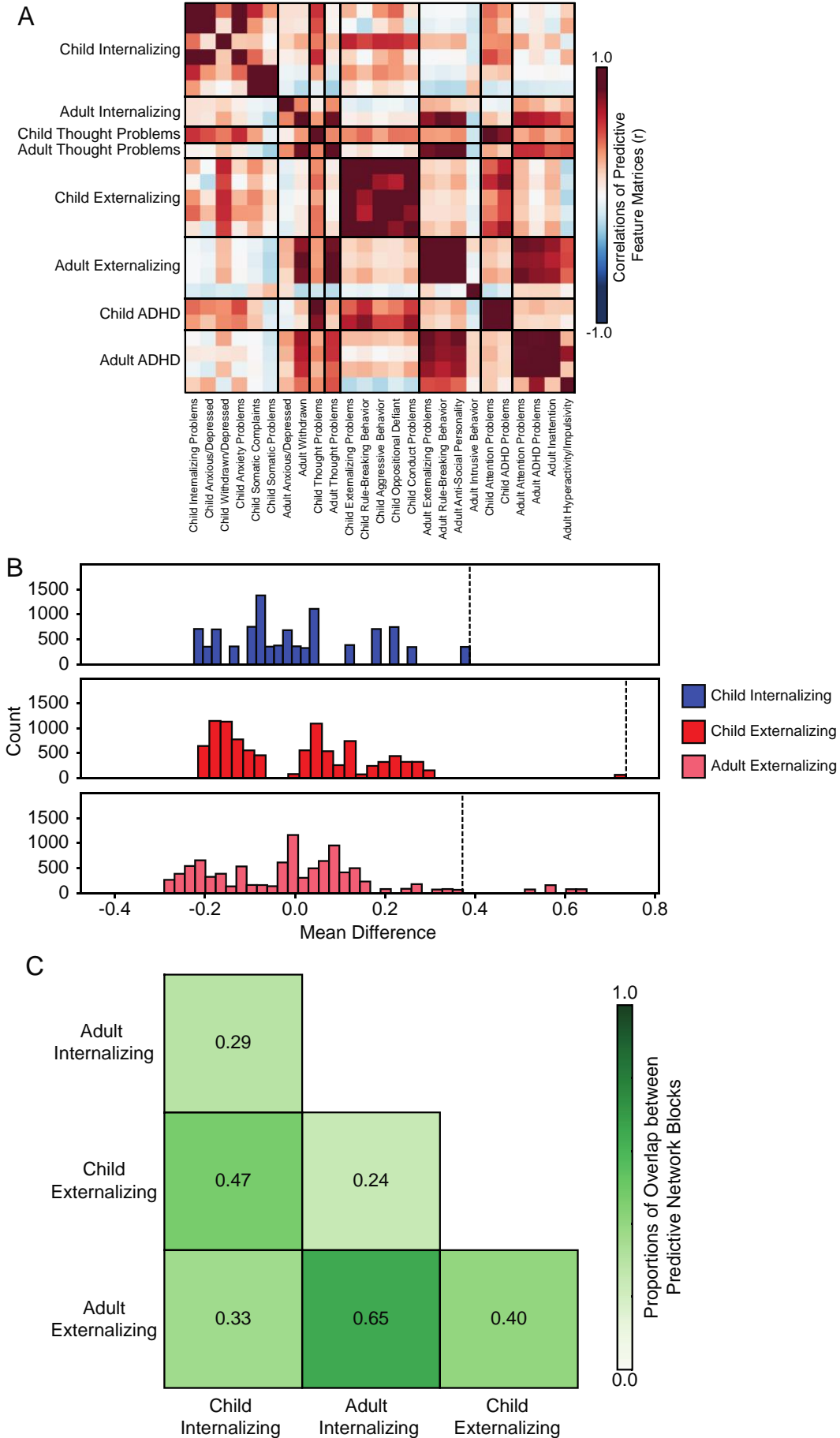
278 **Figure 5.** Predictive brain network features are similar across conceptually-linked behavioral
279 categories in adulthood. (A) The correlation matrix displays Pearson's correlation r of predictive
280 feature weights between all pairs of behavioral measures significantly predicted in the HCP
281 study. Behavioral measures are grouped within associated behavioral categories. Higher
282 intensity colors indicate higher positive (red) and negative (blue) correlations of the mean
283 predictive feature weights between a pair of behavioral measures. (B) Differences between
284 mean correlations of predictive feature weights across behavioral measures within the same
285 category and between different categories were not significantly greater than the null

286 distributions in the adult internalizing and externalizing categories (FDR $q_s > 0.12$). Correlation
287 values were converted to z-scores using Fisher's r-to-z transformation prior to averaging.
288 Graphing conventions are similar to that of Figure 3.
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292 ***Predictive feature weights are largely distinct across ABCD and HCP datasets***

293 To investigate if functional network features predicting internalizing and externalizing
294 behaviors are distinct across development, we assessed the similarity of predictive network
295 features computed from KRR model outputs between ABCD and HCP datasets. We found that
296 FC features predicting internalizing and externalizing problems in ABCD children and HCP
297 adults were only weakly correlated (Fig. 6). We then ran permutation tests to compare the
298 difference in the mean correlation within each category and the mean correlation between each
299 category and the corresponding category in the other age group. As the adult internalizing
300 category contained only two significantly predicted measures, we only focused on child
301 internalizing and externalizing and adult externalizing behaviors. The difference was significantly
302 greater than its null distribution (FDR $q_s \leq 0.0146$) for the two child categories but failed to reach
303 statistical significance for the adult externalizing category (FDR $q = 0.0601$; Fig. 6B). From the
304 predictive feature matrices associated with child and adult internalizing and externalizing
305 categories, we computed the proportion of overlapping network blocks which significantly
306 predicted each pair of categories (Fig. 6C). Proportions of overlap were distinctly higher for pairs
307 of behavioral categories within the same dataset than between the two datasets. These results
308 suggest that although shared brain network features account for individual variation within broad
309 categories of internalizing and externalizing problems in childhood, functional network predictors
310 may change throughout the lifespan, exhibiting distinct fingerprints across developmental
311 stages.

312 Despite the broad distinction between FC patterns predicting internalizing and
313 externalizing behaviors across these two datasets, shared predictive patterns may still be
314 present within select edges. Here, the shared predictive network features associated with both
315 child and adult internalizing categories primarily involved the default, control and visual
316 networks, while the shared predictive network features associated with child and adult
317 externalizing primarily involved somato/motor, ventral and dorsal attention networks
318 (Supplementary Fig. 10).
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321 **Figure 6.** Distinct functional network features predict internalizing and externalizing behaviors in
322 children from the ABCD study and adults from the HCP study. (A) The correlation matrix
323 displays the Pearson's correlation r of predictive feature weights between all pairs of behavioral
324 measures significantly predicted by KRR models in the ABCD and HCP studies. Measures from
325 the same behavioral category are grouped together. Colors indicate positive (red) and negative
326 (blue) correlations of the mean predictive feature weights between behavioral measures and
327 populations. (B) Predictive feature weights associated with child internalizing and externalizing
328 categories were significantly more correlated within categories than with the corresponding adult
329 categories (FDR $q_s \leq 0.0186$). The permutation test was not applicable for the adult internalizing
330 category because only one correlation can be computed between two behavioral measures in
331 the category. Correlation values were converted to z-scores using Fisher's r-to-z transformation
332 prior to averaging. Graphing conventions are similar to that of Figure 3. (C) The 2D grid displays
333 the proportion of network blocks that exhibit the same directionality across each pair of child and
334 adult behavioral categories relative to the behavioral category represented by each column.
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Discussion

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In this study, we first used estimates of individual-specific, functional connectivity from a large, diverse sample of children to predict internalizing- and externalizing-related behavioral measures in children and their parents. Predictive feature weights were more correlated across behaviors within the same categories than with those from different categories. Of note, our analyses revealed that brain data specific to each child can be used to predict self-reported internalizing and externalizing behaviors in their parents. We repeated these analyses in an independent sample of healthy young adults and the opposite pattern was observed, where predictive feature weights were similarly correlated across distinct mental health-linked behavioral categories. Moreover, predictive feature weights associated with internalizing- and externalizing-related behavioral measures were distinct across children and adults, suggesting that brain-based predictors of internalizing and externalizing behaviors may change across the lifespan.

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Internalizing and externalizing symptoms reflect distinct factors across various mental disorders, irrespective of demographic and collection method^{33–37}. Predictive network features are similar across behaviors within the broad categories of mental health¹⁶. Although large-scale networks can be mechanistically informative for studying neurocognitive processes^{38,39} and psychiatric phenotypes^{15,40–42}, the similarity of whole-brain FC patterns predicting measures of internalizing and externalizing behavior has not been directly assessed. Through the use of both KRR and multiKRR models^{16,43}, we were able to predict most mental health measures in children and their parents from children's resting-state functional connectome. Here, we demonstrated that the whole-brain patterns of functional connectivity in children can be used to predict internalizing and externalizing measures in their parents. Our results highlight that the predictive utility of functional connectomes may extend beyond the individual, and provide a robust entry point for future work on shared environmental and contextual factors, broader behavioral patterns within family systems, and/or the heritability of internalizing and externalizing traits.

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Consistent with prior work by Chen et al. 2022 (which used the same dataset), we observed that predictive features are generally similar across measures of internalizing and externalizing behaviors. However, above and beyond this broad pattern of similarity, predictive feature weights were more correlated within than between behavioral categories in ABCD children. These findings are consistent with theoretical models that consider internalizing and externalizing behaviors as distinct constructs of psychopathology under a general psychopathology p factor^{44,45}. Behavioral measures associated with different categories are

371 characterized by both common and distinct network predictors in children. On average, higher
372 behavioral scores in both child internalizing and externalizing categories were predicted by more
373 positive FC between default, control and limbic networks, between somato/motor and salience
374 networks and more negative FC between default and somato/motor networks. Beyond these
375 shared features, there was substantial heterogeneity in the FC patterns predicting internalizing-
376 and externalizing-related behaviors. These results align with previous neuroimaging studies
377 implicating frontoparietal^{46,47}, default⁴⁷⁻⁴⁹, salience^{49,50}, limbic⁴⁹ and somato/motor^{49,51} network
378 disruptions across psychiatric disorders.

379 Contrary to the similarity pattern observed in ABCD children, mean correlations of
380 predictive feature weights across all pairs of behavioral measures within internalizing and
381 externalizing categories were not significantly different from mean correlations between different
382 categories in HCP adults. Our findings suggest that diffuse functional network patterns may
383 predict a more general psychopathology factor in adults, while more specific FC patterns may
384 differentially predict behaviors associated with specific categories of psychopathology in
385 children. One consideration is that KRR models used in HCP analyses reached better-than-
386 chance predictive accuracy for only two out of eight measures assigned to adult internalizing
387 category. This may have biased the results for the permutation test assessing statistical
388 significance of mean correlation differences within and between adult internalizing and
389 externalizing categories. In addition to different correlation patterns across behavioral categories
390 between the two datasets, we also observed distinct FC features predicting same categories of
391 internalizing and externalizing behaviors in children compared to adults. Weak correlations of
392 predictive feature weights associated with internalizing and externalizing behavior across the
393 two samples may be attributable to development of functional network organization from
394 childhood through adolescence and then adulthood^{19,20,52-54}. However, such differences may
395 also be attributable to site differences between the two collection efforts. Of note, our
396 interpretations are limited by the cross-sectional nature of the available data. Future work
397 should further characterize the longitudinal trajectories of brain development and associated
398 brain-based predictions across the lifespan. Another limitation of our study is that we did not test
399 our models separately in each sex. Previous studies have suggested brain-based predictive
400 models often fail to generalize across sexes⁵⁵, and future work should test sex-/gender- specific
401 models of behavior⁵⁶.

402 Taken together, our study found that predictive network features cluster within the same
403 categories of internalizing and externalizing behavior in ABCD children. Intriguingly, the utility of
404 brain-based predictive models in children extended to capture behaviorally relevant signals in

405 their parents. Finally, although most behaviors were predicted better than chance in children
406 and adults, analyses revealed distinct network predictors across datasets. Future work will
407 benefit from the longitudinal study of common and distinct brain-based predictive features
408 across childhood, adolescence, and adulthood.
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Methods

Participants

11,875 typically-developing children and their parents across 21 sites in the United States participated in the ABCD study at baseline (ABCD release 2.0.1). The final analytical sample consisted of 2,262 unrelated children who passed strict preprocessing quality control, had complete fMRI data across all brain states and complete scores across all behavioral measures. Similar to Chen et al., 2022, we combined the 22 ABCD sites into 10 “site-categories” to reduce sample size variability across sites (Supplementary Table 5). Subjects within the same site were also in the same site-category. Detailed demographic information can be found in Supplementary Table 6.

1,206 healthy adults participated in the HCP study (HCP S1200 Data Release). After pre-processing quality control of imaging data, participants were filtered from Li's set of 953 participants⁵⁷ based on the availability of a complete set of structural and resting-state fMRI scans, as well as all behavioral scores of interest. Our main analysis comprised 752 adult participants, who fulfilled all selection criteria¹⁷. Detailed demographic information can be found in Supplementary Table 7.

Neuroimaging

Data acquisition

For the ABCD study, all T1w images and fMRI data was acquired using protocols harmonized across three 3 tesla(T) scanner platforms (i.e., Phillips, Siemens Prisma and General Electric 750) at 21 sites. Twenty minutes of resting-state fMRI data, consisting of four 5-minute runs, was collected from each ABCD child participant. For each of the three tasks (MID, SST and N-Back)^{23–25}, fMRI data was acquired over two runs with 2.4mm isotropic resolution with a TR of 800ms. The structural T1 scans were acquired with 1mm isotropic resolution with a TR of 2500ms. For full details of imaging acquisition can be found elsewhere⁵⁸.

The fMRI data in the HCP data was acquired using an optimized protocol with 2mm isotropic resolution and a TR of 700ms. Each HCP subject goes through one structural MRI session and two fMRI sessions. Each fMRI session consists of two 15-minute resting-state scans with opposite phase encoding directions (L/R and R/L). The structural T1 scans were acquired using 0.7mm isotropic resolution and a TR of 2400ms. Full details of the acquisition protocol can be found elsewhere²⁶.

Data processing

444 Minimally preprocessed T1w images⁵⁹ in the ABCD study were further processed using
445 FreeSurfer v5.3.0⁶⁰⁻⁶⁵. The cortical surface meshes were then registered a common spherical
446 coordinate system^{62,63}. Subjects who failed recon-all QC were subsequently excluded⁵⁹. The
447 minimally preprocessed fMRI data⁵⁹ were subsequently processed in the following manner. The
448 first four frames were removed⁵⁹. Slice time correction was performed with the FSL library^{66,67}.
449 Motion correction was performed using rigid body translation and rotation with the FSL package.
450 The resulting fMRI images were then aligned with the processed T1w images⁶⁸ with FsFast
451 (<https://surfer.nmr.mgh.harvard.edu/fswiki/FsFast>), and only runs with registration costs less
452 than 0.6 were retained. Framewise displacement (FD)⁶⁷ and voxel-wise differentiated signal
453 variance (DVARS)⁶⁹ were computed by `fsl_motion_outliers`. Volumes with $FD > 0.3$ mm or
454 $DVARS > 50$, along with one volume before and two volumes after, were flagged as outliers. A
455 bandstop filter was applied to remove respiratory pseudomotion⁷⁰. Uncensored segments of
456 data having fewer than 5 contiguous volumes were also flagged as outliers and censored⁷¹.
457 Runs with more than half of the volumes flagged as outliers were discarded. Participants with
458 less than 4 minutes of data for each fMRI state (rest, MID, N-Back, SST) were excluded from
459 further analysis. Nuisance regressors, including global signal, six motion correction parameters,
460 averaged ventricular signal, averaged white matter signal, and their temporal derivatives (18
461 regressors in total), were regressed out of the fMRI time series from the unflagged volumes.
462 Data were interpolated across censored frames⁷², band-pass filtered at $0.009 \text{ Hz} \leq f \leq 0.08 \text{ Hz}$,
463 projected onto FreeSurfer `fsaverage6` surface space, and smoothed using a 6mm full-width half
464 maximum kernel.

465 For the HCP study, minimally preprocessed T1w images⁷³ went through bias- and
466 distortion- correction using the *PreFreeSurfer* pipeline and registered to MNI space. Cortical
467 surface reconstruction was conducted using FreeSurfer v5.2 using recon-all adapted for high-
468 resolution images. The reconstructed surface meshes were then registered to the Conte69
469 surface template⁷⁴. After preprocessing, the fMRI data were corrected for gradient-nonlinearity-
470 induced distortions. The fMRI time series in each frame were then realigned to the single-band
471 reference image to correct for subject motion using rigid body transformation^{67,75} with FSL. The
472 resulting single-band image underwent spline interpolation to correct for distortions and was
473 then registered to the T1w image⁶⁸. Native fMRI volumes went through nonlinear registration to
474 the MNI space and mapped to the standard CIFTI grayordinate coordinate space. Further
475 details about the preprocessing and processing pipelines of structural and functional images
476 can be found elsewhere⁷³.

477

478 Functional connectivity

479 We used 400 cortical regions of interest²⁹ (ROIs) and 19 subcortical ROIs²⁸. Functional
480 connectivity (FC) was measured by Pearson's r correlations between the mean time series of
481 each pair of ROIs. Censored frames were ignored when computing functional connectivity. In
482 the ABCD study, the average FC matrix across all runs in each subject from each state (rest,
483 MID, N-back, SST) was used for subsequent analyses. To match processing across resting and
484 task states, task activations were not regressed from the task-state data. For the HCP study, the
485 average FC matrix across all runs in each subject was only computed from the resting state and
486 used for subsequent analyses.

487

488 **Measures of internalizing and externalizing behaviors**

489 We included 25 dimensional measures of internalizing and externalizing in our analyses,
490 selected from all available mental health relevant assessments taken from child participants and
491 their parents²⁷ in the ABCD study. This consisted of 15 internalizing measures and 10
492 externalizing measures. Thought and attention problems are related to both internalizing and
493 externalizing psychopathology^{76,77}. Accordingly, we included 2 measures of thought problems
494 and 6 measures of attention. Participants without available data across all behavioral measures
495 were excluded from analysis. The complete list of the included variables can be found in Tables
496 S1 and S2. Behavioral measures were grouped into four categories: Internalizing, Externalizing,
497 Thought Problems and ADHD Problems for both children and their parents, resulting in eight
498 behavioral categories in total (Supplementary Table 1).

499 In data from the HCP, we analyzed 18 dimensional measures of internalizing,
500 externalizing, thought and attention problems from the Achenbach Self-Report (ASR)
501 questionnaire, resulting in four behavioral categories (Supplementary Table 2).

502

503 **Statistical analysis**

504 Consistent with prior work¹⁶, we used multi-kernel ridge regression (multiKRR) with l_2
505 regularization to predict each behavioral measure from participant-specific FC matrices across
506 all brain states (rest, MID, N-back, SST) jointly in the ABCD study. Behavioral measures in the
507 HCP study were predicted from resting-state FC using kernel ridge regression (KRR) with l_2
508 regularization. Details about KRR and multiKRR models can be found in the Supplement (see
509 Supplementary methods S1 and S2). Age and mean FD were entered as covariates. Both
510 models assume that participants with more similar FC patterns have more similar behavioral
511 measures. Models were implemented with nested cross-validation procedures similar to Ooi et

512 al., 2022. Head motion (mean FD and DVARS) were regressed from each behavioral measure
513 prior to cross-validation.

514 In the ABCD analyses, we performed leave-3-site-clusters-out nested cross-validation
515 for each behavioral measure. At each fold, a different set of 3 site-categories served as the test
516 set, and the remaining 7 site-categories were used as the training set, resulting in 120 folds in
517 total. In the HCP analyses, we implemented 60 random initiations of 10-fold nested cross-
518 validation. Participants from the same family were assigned to either training or testing sets and
519 were never split across training and test sets in any cross-validation fold.

520 Across both datasets, model and regularization parameters were estimated from the
521 training set at each fold. The estimated parameters were then applied to the unseen participants
522 from the test set and evaluated for accuracy by both correlating predicted and actual
523 measures⁷⁸, and by coefficient of determination (COD). To assess whether model prediction
524 performed better than chance, statistical significance of prediction accuracy was assessed by a
525 permutation test whereby the entire cross-validation procedure was rerun on behavior measures
526 randomly reshuffled across participants in each dataset. Care was taken to avoid shuffling
527 between families or sites.

528

529 **Model Interpretation**

530 To interpret the predictive importance of each FC feature, we used an approach from
531 Haufe and colleagues (2014) to transform predictive feature weights associating each FC edge
532 to the behavioral measure. Predictive feature weight was computed by the covariance between
533 the predicted behavioral measure and the FC edge. This resulted in a 419 x 419 predictive
534 feature matrix for each brain state and each behavioral measure. A positive (or negative)
535 predictive feature weight indicates that higher FC predicts greater (or lower) behavioral values.
536 Statistical significance of these predictive feature weights was tested with permutation tests and
537 corrected for multiple comparison using FDR ($q < 0.05$). To reduce the number of multiple
538 comparisons, predictive feature weights were averaged within and between 18 large-scale
539 functional networks^{28,29} before conducting the permutation test.

540

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