

Supplementary Figures

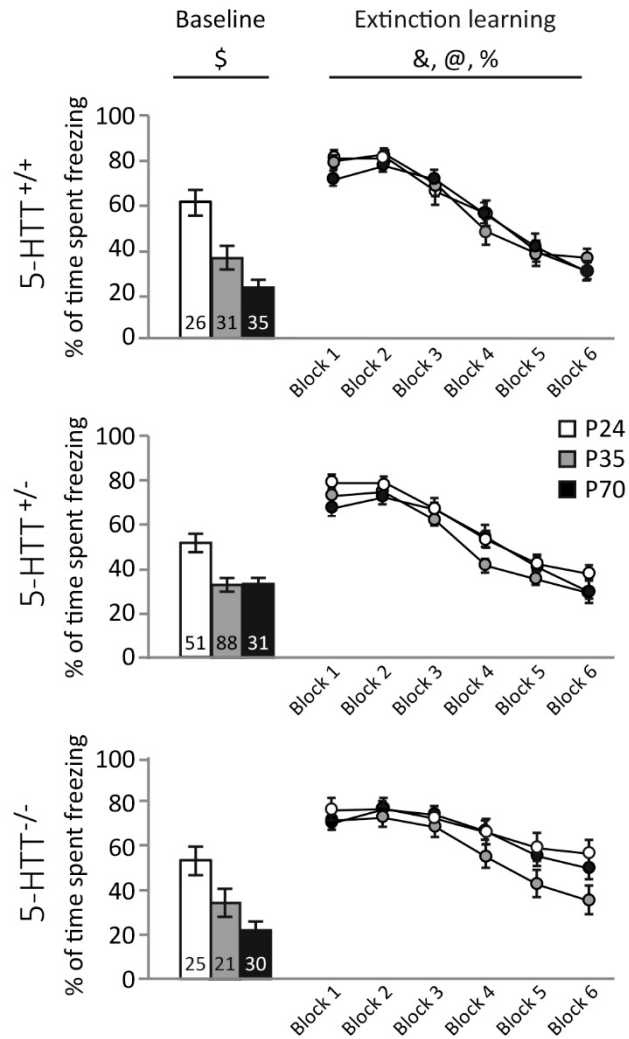


Figure S1. Fear conditioning behavioral data across extinction learning and the two extinction recall sessions, sorted on genotype. Data are expressed as mean % of time spent freezing during stimulus presentations ± standard error of the mean. \$ indicates a significant effect of age ($p < 0.05$); ¥ indicates a significant age x genotype interaction ($p < 0.05$); & indicates a significant effect of extinction block ($p < 0.05$); @ indicates a significant age x block interaction ($p < 0.05$); % indicates a significant genotype x block interaction ($p < 0.05$).

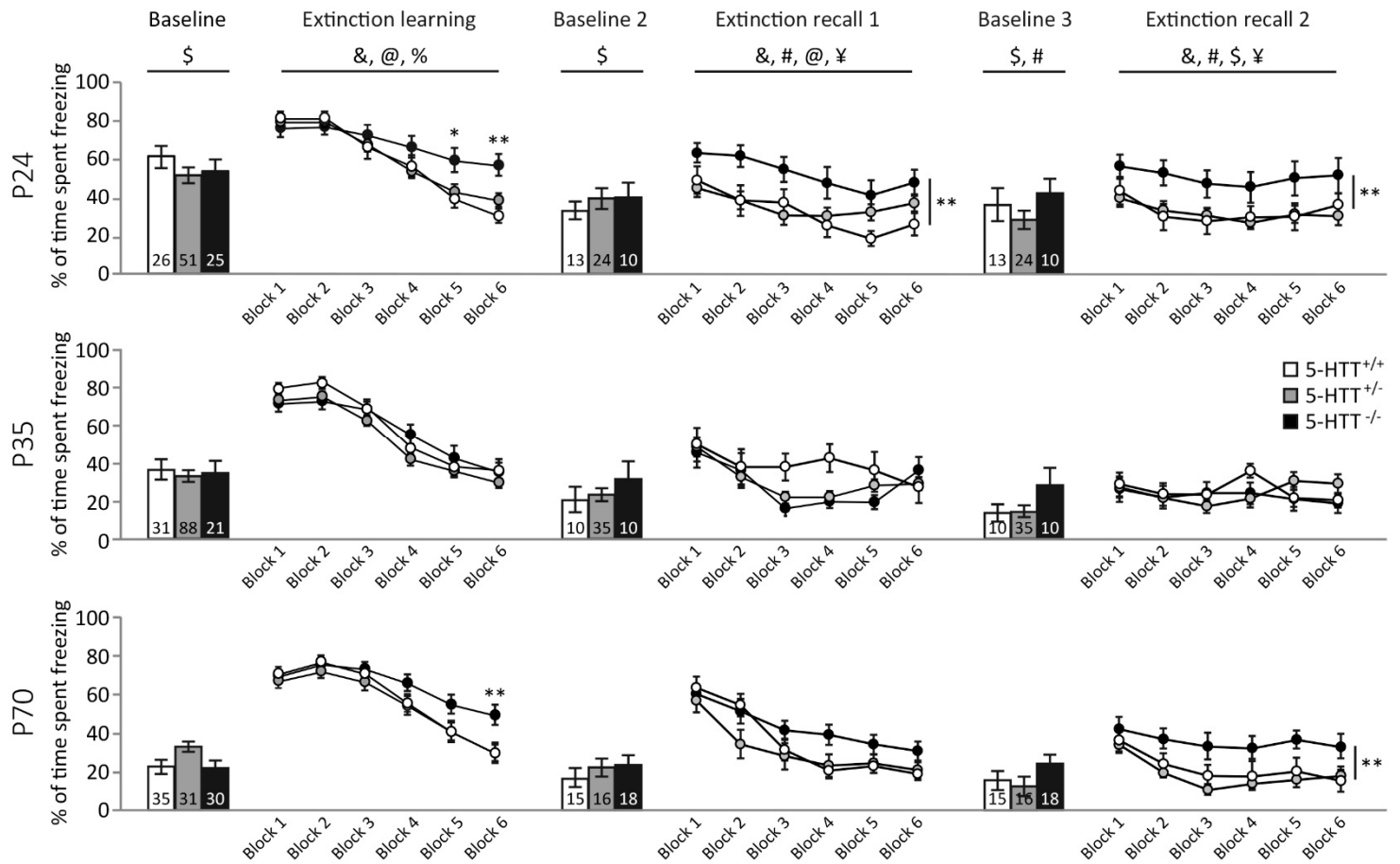


Figure S2. Fear conditioning behavioral data across extinction learning and the two extinction recall sessions, including baseline. Freezing during the 2-minute stimulus free baseline period preceding extinction learning decreased across age in all genotypes (see main text). Baseline freezing observed prior to the first extinction recall session also revealed a strong effect of age ($F_{(2,144)} = 6.597$, $p = 0.002$), with preadolescent animals showing highest freezing levels ($p = 0.006$ compared to adolescents; $p = 0.001$ compared to adults), whereas adolescent animals did not differ from adults ($p = 1.000$). Baseline freezing during the second fear extinction recall session also revealed a strong effect of age ($F_{(2,142)} = 9.063$, $p < 0.001$), with preadolescent animals showing highest freezing levels ($p < 0.001$ compared to adolescents; $p = 0.002$ compared to adults), whereas adolescent animals did not differ from adults ($p = 1.000$). Freezing rates were also modulated by genotype ($F_{(2,142)} = 3.970$, $p = 0.021$), with 5-HTT^{-/-} rats displaying higher freezing than the other groups ($F_{(1,107)} = 8.281$, $p = 0.005$, compared to 5-HTT^{+/-}; $F_{(1,107)} = 2.983$, $p = 0.089$, compared to 5HTT^{+/+}), whereas 5-HTT^{+/-} and 5HTT^{+/+} rats did not significantly differ from each other in freezing behavior ($F < 1$). Data are expressed as mean % of time spent freezing during stimulus presentations \pm standard error of the mean. # indicates a significant effect of genotype ($p < 0.05$); \$ indicates a significant effect of age ($p < 0.05$); ¥ indicates a significant age x genotype interaction ($p < 0.05$); ** indicates a significant *post hoc* difference between 5-HTT^{-/-} vs. 5-HTT^{+/-} and/or 5-HTT^{+/+} rats ($p < 0.01$); & indicates a significant effect of extinction block ($p < 0.05$); @ indicates a significant age x block interaction ($p < 0.05$); % indicates a significant genotype x block interaction ($p < 0.05$).

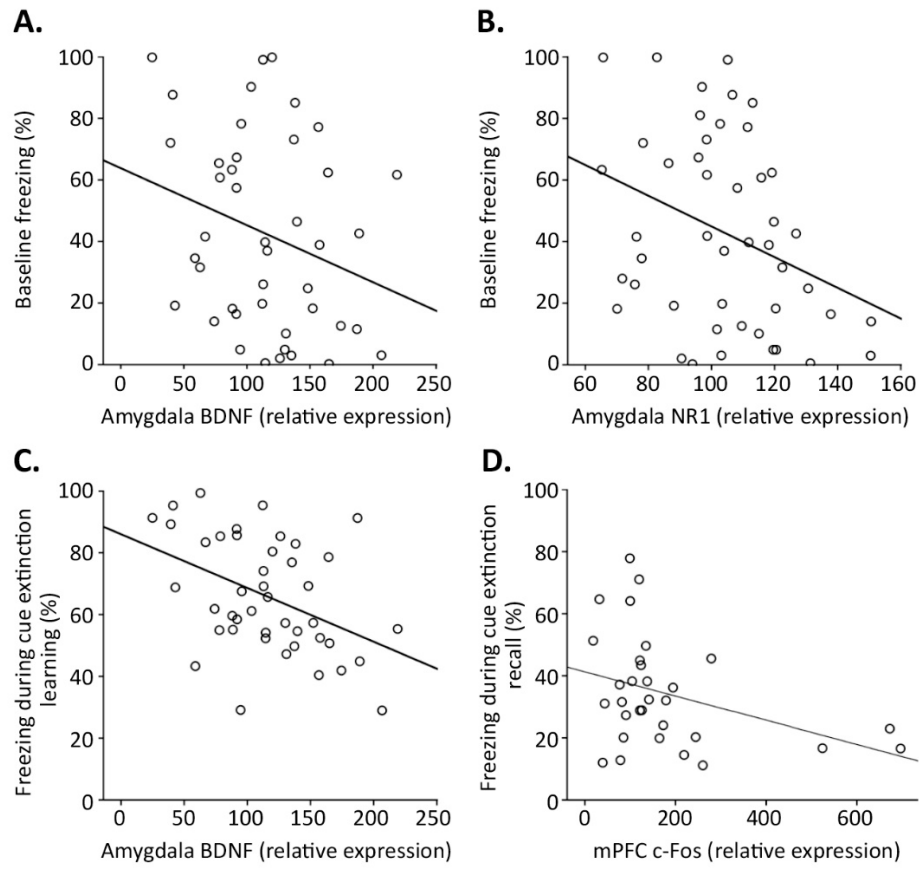


Figure S3. Correlational plots showing associations between brain gene expression levels and behavioral freezing. Baseline freezing as observed prior to fear extinction learning correlated significantly with amygdala BDNF (A) and NR1 (B) expression levels, whereas amygdala BDNF also correlated with freezing rates during cue presentation during this session (C). Freezing as observed during the second fear extinction recall session correlated with c-Fos expression in the medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC) (D). Gene expression levels are depicted as percentage of the respective preadolescent 5-HTT^{+/+} group.