Some kids develop ADHD because their grandmothers smoked during pregnancy, a new study suggests.

Prenatal exposure to nicotine has been linked to the development of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in children born a generation later.

The study, published in the Journal of Neuroscience, attempts to explain the spike in ADHD over the past few decades.

"Other research has shown a very high correlation between heavy smoking during pregnancy and the incidence of kids with ADHD," Pradeep G. Bhide, neuroscientist from Florida State University, said in a press release.

"What's important about our study is that we are seeing that changes occurring in my grandparents' genome because of smoking during pregnancy are being passed to my child. So if my child had ADHD, it might not matter that...I never smoked."