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When mice younger than 2 weeks old were exposed to very small particles of pollutants, their brains showed damage that is consistent with brain changes in humans with autism and schizophrenia. That's not to say air pollution causes either one, said Deborah Cory-Slechta, professor of environmental medicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center and lead researcher in the study published Friday.

Research on mice doesn't always translate to humans. But Cory-Slechta said the results could lead to regulations on even the smallest types of pollutant particles.

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