

# Humans can smell fear, and it's contagious

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## **CBS:**

Humans can smell fear and disgust, and the emotions are contagious, according to a new study.

The findings, published Nov. 5 in the journal *Psychological Science*, suggest that humans communicate via smell just like other animals.

“These findings are contrary to the commonly accepted assumption that human communication runs exclusively via language or visual channels,” write Gun Semin and colleagues from Utrecht University in the Netherlands.

Most animals communicate using smell, but because humans lack the same odor-sensing organs, scientists thought we had long ago lost our ability to smell fear or other emotions.

To find out, the team collected sweat from under the armpits of 10 men while they watched either frightening scenes from the horror movie “The Shining” or repulsive clips of MTV’s “Jackass.”

Read the whole story: [CBS](#)