

What is autism?

Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication. We know that there is not one autism but many subtypes, most influenced by a combination of genetic and environmental factors. Because autism is a spectrum disorder, each person with autism has a distinct set of strengths and challenges. The ways in which people with autism learn, think and problem-solve can range from highly skilled to severely challenged. Some people with ASD may require significant support in their daily lives, while others may need less support and, in some cases, live entirely independently.



Autism affects an estimated

1 in 59 children in the U.S.

Autism can be reliably diagnosed

by around age 2

but average age remains 4.

Only

2% of autism research*

funding went to the study of life span issues.

*Most recent data, 2016



On average, it costs an added

\$60K/year

to care for someone with autism.



An estimated

70K teens

age out of school-based services each year.

Around

1/3 of people with autism

are nonverbal.



1/2 of those with autism

wander or bolt from safety.



More than

1/2 of children

with autism have sleep challenges.



Autism affects more than

70M people

worldwide.



Children with autism are

8x more likely

to have GI problems.



Autism's economic cost in the U.S. is estimated to be at least

\$268 B.

Nearly



1/2 of 25 year olds

with autism never held a paying job, although many are willing and able to work.