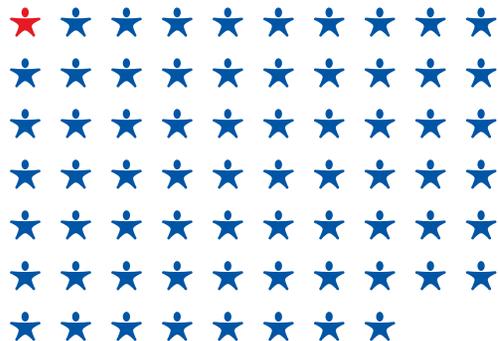


Creating a Better World for Autism through Awareness

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IDENTIFIED WITH ASD



1 in 68

CDC's estimated autism prevalence based upon monitoring of 8-year-old children.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others. ASD is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a "spectrum disorder" that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees.



One person is diagnosed with ASD every **20 minutes.**

Early diagnosis of ASD leads to early intervention. If children are diagnosed by age three, they are more likely to work and live on their own as independent adults.

ASD costs the nation over **\$137 billion** per year.

Autism Facts:

- ASD is the fastest growing developmental disability with an average 17% growth rate per year. One person is diagnosed with ASD every 20 minutes.
- ASDs are reported to occur in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups.
- Changes in screening processes over the years have led to an increase in screening toddlers for ASD, resulting in a 12-18% increase in diagnosis of ASD for children by the age of three.
- Individuals with ASD are unique. Each person has strengths and areas of need and no two people with ASD are alike.
- Coexisting conditions often are associated with ASD.
- People with ASD have different reactions to their sensory environment than their neurotypical peers—over 87% of people with ASD have a heightened sensory response to touch, 87% to sound and 86% to visual stimuli.

Families of children with ASD

are three times more likely to have one parent quit their job or reduce work hours to care for their children. They are more likely to pay more for their children's health care needs, spend more time providing for that care and are more likely to have financial difficulties than families with neurotypical children.

- ASD costs the nation over \$137 billion per year, a figure expected to significantly increase in the next decade.
- Individuals with ASD over a lifetime experience violent crime at a higher rate. During school years, 40 percent of children with autism and 60 percent of children with Asperger's syndrome have experienced bullying.
- Bully victims are between 2 to 9 times more likely to consider suicide than non-victims.

Since 1965, the Autism Society is the nation's largest and oldest grassroots autism organization helping countless individuals and families through a network of over 100 local and state affiliates. Spread the word! For more information and the citations, visit autism-society.org

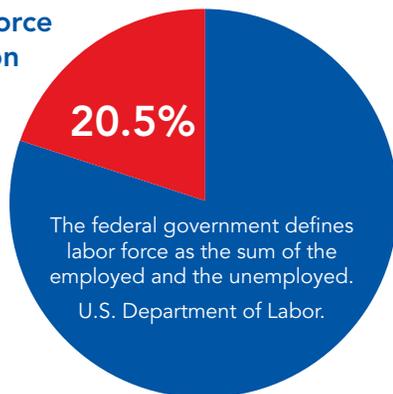
Individuals with ASD and their families are not alone!

Employment

Individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) bring valuable skills to the workforce! Of the estimated 54 million Americans living with a disability, only 20 percent are employed or seeking employment, compared to almost 70 percent of Americans living without a disability.

Individuals with ASD are part of the solution to helping businesses, both small and large. For example, Walgreens has experienced a 120 percent productivity increase at a distribution center made universally accessible and more than 50 percent of whose employees are individuals with disabilities. State systems should recognize the return on investment by advancing employment opportunities for people with disabilities. For example, supported employment, which refers to support for jobs in the competitive labor market, yields a \$1.21 benefit to taxpayers for every dollar spent. In 2014, employment is more critical than ever for individuals with ASD and a new generation of youth with disabilities entering the workforce.

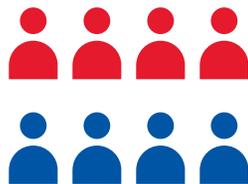
The labor force participation rate for individuals with disabilities is only **20.5%**



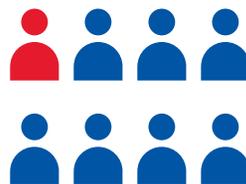
The federal government defines labor force as the sum of the employed and the unemployed.
U.S. Department of Labor.

Create a better world for autism by providing meaningful employment opportunities for all!

Wandering



Roughly 50% of children with ASD attempt to elope from a safe environment



Siblings not on the spectrum elope about 75% fewer times than children with ASD

Roughly half of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) attempt to elope from a safe environment, a rate nearly four times higher than their siblings who do not have autism. More than one-third of children with ASD who wander are never or rarely able to communicate their name, address, or phone number.

Children with ASD frequently have challenges with social and communication skills and safety awareness which makes wandering a potentially dangerous behavior. Wandering is the tendency for an individual to try to leave the safety of a person's care or area and is a critical safety issue for the autism community. Drowning is among the leading causes of death of individuals with ASD, so searching water areas first is critical to the safe return if an individual does wander away. Searching for individuals on the spectrum, often times presents unique challenges for first-responders, parents, and community.

Create a better world for autism that supports families of children with ASD by developing strategies to prevent wandering from occurring!

Community Inclusion

Over 50,000 families will receive an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) diagnosis this year.

Many individuals with ASD have historically been socially isolated, and in many ways willfully excluded from participating in community life. The exclusion is a consequence of false assumptions about individuals on the spectrum and their abilities, as well as negative stereotypes and outright prejudice. The reality is, individuals with ASD can and do live integrated, complete and successful lives in all aspects of their communities. Community life is all about having individualized supports and services. For example, supports may entail providing assistance with finding and securing affordable health care and appropriate housing, or transition support as a young person moves from high school to adult life, including employment.



Over

50,000

families will receive an autism diagnosis this year.

Autism Society estimate based on CDC and U.S. Census numbers

Create a better world for autism by committing to building an inclusive community in which individuals on the spectrum live, work, and play side-by-side with persons without disabilities!