

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

About Autism Spectrum Disorders

Autism statistics from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in March of 2014 released new data showing around 1 in 68 American children as on the autism spectrum—a ten-fold increase in prevalence in 40 years. Careful research shows that this increase is only partly explained by improved diagnosis and awareness. Studies also show that autism is four to five times more common in boys than girls. An estimated 1 out of 42 boys and 1 in 189 girls are diagnosed with autism in the United States.

There is no one cause of autism just as there is no one type of autism. Most cases of autism, appear to be caused by a combination of autism risk genes and environmental factors influencing early brain development.

In the presence of a genetic predisposition to autism, a number of nongenetic, or “environmental,” stresses appear to further increase a child’s risk. The clearest evidence of these autism risk factors involves events before and during birth. They include advanced parental age at time of conception (both mom and dad), maternal illness during pregnancy and certain difficulties during birth, particularly those involving periods of oxygen deprivation to the baby’s brain. It is important to keep in mind that these factors, by themselves, do not cause autism. Rather, in combination with genetic risk factors, they appear to modestly increase risk.

Did you know...

- Autism now affects 1 in 68 children and 1 in 42 boys
- Autism prevalence figures are growing
- Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disorder in the U.S.
- Autism costs a family \$60,000 a year on average
- Boys are nearly five times more likely than girls to have autism
- There is no medical detection or cure for autism

National Institutes of Health Funds Allocation

- Total 2012 NIH budget: \$30.86 billion
- Of this, only \$169 million goes directly to autism research. This represents 0.55% of total NIH funding.

Source: <https://www.autismspeaks.org/what-autism>

ASD Diagnosis

Specially trained physicians and psychologists administer autism-specific behavioral evaluations, there is not a medical test that can diagnose Autism Spectrum Disorders. In May of 2013 the DSM-V (Diagnostic and Statistical manual of Mental Disorders) update the criteria that psychologists and psychiatrists use to evaluate for this developmental disorder. For a complete diagnostic criteria please see the resource page for information on how to view the DSM-V.

ASD Symptoms

There are four areas that are impacted by Autism Spectrum Disorders

1. Social Challenges
2. Communication Difficulties
3. Repetitive Behaviors
4. Physical and Medical Issues that may accompany Autism

ASD Types

- I. Autistic Disorder
- II. Asperger's Syndrome
- III. Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD)
- IV. Auditory and Visual Processing Disorders
- V. Nonverbal Learning Disorders

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AUTISM APPS for Computer and Mobile Devices

<u>Name</u> ▲	Category	Platform	Age
Community Success iPad App	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Skills • Functional Skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iPad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children (6-12) • Adolescents (13-17) • Adults (18+)
Emotions Reader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iPad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children (6-12) • Adolescents (13-17) • Adults (18+)
i Get... Cooking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Skills • Educational • Functional Skills • Language • Organizer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iPad • iPhone • iTouch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children (6-12) • Adolescents (13-17) • Adults (18+)
SAMSUNG LOOK AT ME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Android 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children (6-12) • Adolescents (13-17) • Adults (18+)
Smart Steps Mobile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Skills • Behavioral Intervention • Communication • Educational • Functional Skills • Organizer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Android • iPhone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adolescents (13-17) • Adults (18+)
Social Success iPad App	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iPad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children (6-12) • Adolescents (13-17) • Adults (18+)

Autism Resources

General Information and Resources

Autism Speaks

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/>

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/resource-guide/state/AZ>

CDC

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/index.html>

Arizona Rehabilitation Services

<https://www.azdes.gov/rsa/>

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition
(DSM_5) Autism Criteria

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/news/news-item/dsm-5>

National Autism Resources

<http://www.nationalautismresources.com/>

Autism Society of Greater Phoenix

<http://www.nationalautismresources.com/>