



What is autism?

Autism, or autism spectrum disorder, 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, and each person with autism can have unique strengths and challenges. A combination of genetic and environmental factors influences the development of autism, and autism is often accompanied by medical issues such as gastrointestinal disorders, seizures and sleep disturbances.

Autism affects

**1 in 31 children
in the U.S.**

Autism can be reliably
diagnosed by a specialist

**by age 2 but
average age
remains 5.**

60%

of preschool-age
children with autism
wander.

The cost of public
healthcare for autistic
adults exceeds

**\$10.5B
annually.**

**An estimated
50K teens**

with autism age out of
school-based services
each year.

27%

of autistic children
are nonverbal,
minimally verbal or
have an IQ below 50.

74%

of autistic students
in special education
finished high school
with a diploma.

**More
than 60%**

of autistic adolescents
and adults report
sleep problems.

Autism affects
an estimated

**80M people
worldwide.**

**Only
1 in 5 people**

with disabilities, including
autism, are employed.

Only 4%

of autism research
funding went to the
study of life span issues.

1 in 45 adults

in the U.S. is diagnosed
with autism.