

autism speaks

autism by the numbers

Data to help you plan and advocate

CONNECTICUT

Autism Rate – *Prevalence and provider types diagnosing autism*

3.0 percent of Connecticut parents reported that their child had autism. This is **slightly higher** than the national prevalence of **2.9 percent**. This measure is important to understand for program planning and resource allocation for public services, including Medicaid, the primary insurer for autistic children, and special education, to make available the services and staff needed for autistic children.

Parents also reported the type of provider that diagnosed their child with autism. This is important to track because large differences across states might indicate gaps in access to trained providers who can diagnose autism.

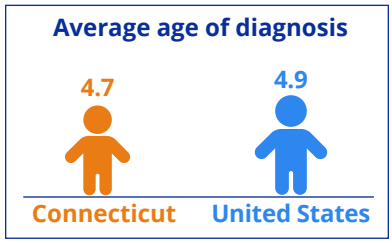
	Connecticut	United States
Specialist	27.6%	32%
School/Other Psychologist	21.8%	30.4%
Other Provider Type	50.6%	37.7%

Source: *National Survey of Children's Health, 2020-2021, parent survey data*

Early Intervention – *Age of diagnosis and first intervention*

The average age of autism diagnosis in **Connecticut is 4.7 years old**. This is **lower** than the U.S. average of **4.9 years old**. The state average age at diagnosis may reflect accessibility and availability of trained professionals to make diagnoses. Parents also reported on the average age of the first formal plan for early intervention of special education services. The earlier the age, the better the long-term outcomes for autistic people.

Source: *National Survey of Children's Health, 2020-2021*



Education – *Special education services and outcomes for autistic students*

Compared to the U.S. average of **12.2 percent, 13.8 percent** of special education students in **Connecticut** are receiving special education services for autism. Understanding this information can help special education planning for appropriate staffing and curriculum to better meet the needs of autistic students. Demographic differences can help us plan for connecting autistic people to services they may need.

In **Connecticut, 3.5 percent** of autistic students received at least a one-day suspension for disciplinary action, compared to **5.3 percent** in the U.S. This indicator describes how schools manage autistic students' behavior.

In **Connecticut**, rates of students graduating with a diploma were **higher** than those in the U.S. It is important to understand if school supports for autistic people are appropriate in meeting their needs. These numbers may give insight into the effectiveness of supports for autistic students and the quality of the schools in the state.

	Connecticut	United States
Receiving special education services	13.8%	12.2%
Received disciplinary action	3.5%	5.3%
Received diploma	87.5%	72.4%

Source: *U.S. Department of Education, Part B Child Count Data 2021-2022*

Employment – *Receipt and outcomes of vocational rehabilitation (VR) services*

86.6 percent of Connecticut autistic VR applicants (ages 14-64 years) received VR services. This is **higher** than the national average of **79.9 percent**. The percentage of these service recipients who had a job when they left VR was **lower** than the national average. These numbers give us an idea of how many autistic youth and young adults are receiving VR services and their effectiveness and quality in **Connecticut**.

	Connecticut	United States
Received VR services	86.6%	79.9%
Employed after VR	45.7%	49.2%

Source: *U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA-911, 2017-2019)*

For additional information, visit the Autism Speaks *Autism by the Numbers* dashboard.

Health and Healthcare

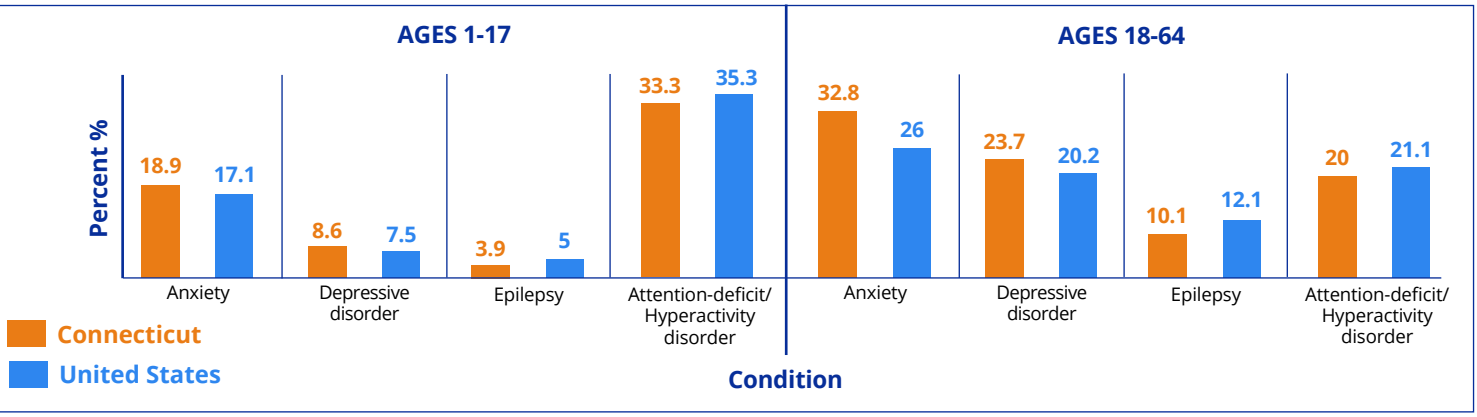
Unmet Healthcare Needs in Children

4.6 percent of parents in **Connecticut** reported their child experienced unmet healthcare needs. This is **lower** than the U.S. average of **10.9 percent**. Unmet healthcare needs mean not being able to get the medical help a child needs, like seeing a doctor, dentist, or mental health provider, often because it's not available or affordable. Reported unmet need shows there are gaps in healthcare where people aren't getting the care they require, which can seriously affect their health.

	Connecticut	United States
Unmet healthcare needs for children with autism	4.6%	10.9%

Source: *National Survey of Children's Health, 2020-2021*

Most Common Co-occurring Health Conditions



Common co-occurring conditions were explored among children and adults enrolled in Medicaid. It is helpful for healthcare providers to be aware of co-occurring conditions so that they can take a proactive approach in working with autistic patients to ensure they have good mental and physical health.

Source: *Medicaid T-MSIS Analytic Files, 2018-2019*

Cost of Common Outpatient Services

Using 2021-2022 data from FAIR Health Inc., which includes private insurance claims, we explored state costs for certain health care. The table shows how much **Connecticut** families of autistic children paid compared to the U.S. average. It is important to understand what families are paying out of pocket for these charges to speak to needs around insurance for autistic people.

Services Category	Connecticut	United States
Developmental screening	$169	$101
Emergency department	$1,690	$1,474
Physical therapy	$79	$69
Psychiatry	$262	$259
Speech/language	$212	$164

Source: *FAIR Health Inc. data, 2021-2022*

Family Supports – *Financial and Material Hardship*

16.3 percent of parents in **Connecticut** reported experiencing food or housing insecurity. This is **lower** than the U.S. average of **25.4 percent**. When families of autistic children struggle to afford basic necessities like food and housing, it causes a lot of extra stress and uncertainty. These financial hardships can impact a child's wellbeing as well as the wellbeing of the family.

Source: *National Survey of Children's Health, 2020-2021*

16.3%
of autistic households in Connecticut experience food/ housing insecurity.

For additional information, visit the Autism Speaks *Autism by the Numbers* dashboard.