



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.

<p>Autism affects 1 in 36 children in the U.S.</p>	<p>Autism can be reliably diagnosed by a specialist by age 2 but average age remains 5.</p>	<p>60% of preschool-age children with autism wander.</p>
<p>The cost of public healthcare for autistic adults exceeds \$10.5B annually.</p>	<p>An estimated 50K teens with autism age out of school-based services each year.</p>	<p>27% of autistic children are nonverbal, minimally verbal or have an IQ below 50.</p>
<p>74% of autistic students in special education finished high school with a diploma.</p>	<p>More than 60% of autistic adolescents and adults report sleep problems.</p>	<p>Autism affects an estimated 80M people worldwide.</p>
<p>Only 1 in 5 people with disabilities, including autism, are employed.</p>	<p>Only 4% of autism research funding went to the study of life span issues.</p>	<p>1 in 45 adults in the U.S. is diagnosed with autism.</p>