

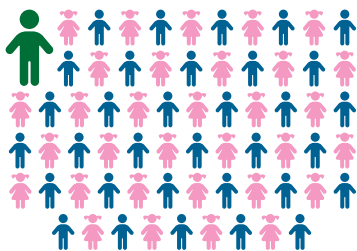
# APRIL IS AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

According to the Autism Society, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), is a complex, lifelong developmental condition that typically appears during early childhood and can impact a person's social skills, communication, relationships, and self-regulation.

## What is autism?

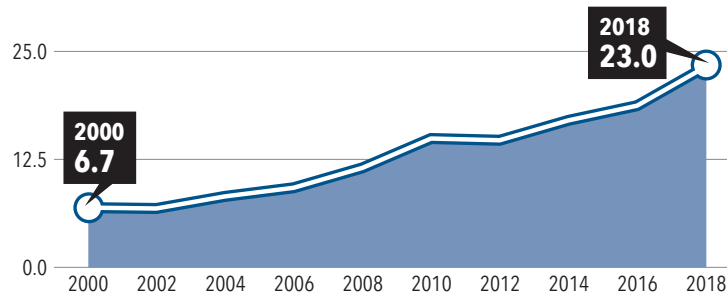
Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability caused by differences in the brain's ability to process and interpret information it receives from the outside world. People with ASD often are often challenged with social communication and interaction, and restricted or repetitive behaviors or interests. People with ASD may also have different ways of learning, moving, or paying attention. It is important to note that some people without ASD might also have some of these symptoms. But for people with ASD, these characteristics can make life very challenging – there is no known cause of, or single form of assistance for autism.

**In 2016, 1 in 66 Arkansas children were identified as having ASD.**

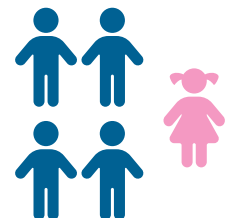


**Autism prevalence has been rising since 2000.**

Cases per 1,000 children



**Boys are four times more likely than girls to be diagnosed with autism.**



**Vaccines do not cause autism.**



- Autism affects **all ethnic and socioeconomic groups**.
- The cost of caring for autistic Americans is estimated to rise to **\$460+ billion** by 2025 in the absence of more effective interventions and support. An estimated \$175 to \$196 billion of these costs are for adult services.
- **Over 7 million individuals** in the United States are on the autism spectrum. Autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in the U.S.

**The diagnosis rate for autism is rising by 10-17% each year.**



## How to get help

Early identification is associated with dramatically better outcomes for people with autism. The earlier a child is diagnosed, the earlier they can begin benefiting from early intervention therapies and education. Contact your child's doctor if you think your child might have ASD or if you have any other concerns about the way your child plays, learns, speaks or acts.

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AUTISM, VISIT [WWW.CDC.GOV/AUTISM](http://WWW.CDC.GOV/AUTISM).**

To find a health center, visit [www.chc-ar.org/health-center-list](http://WWW.CHC-AR.ORG/HEALTH-CENTER-LIST) or call **501-374-8225**.

**SOURCES:** <https://autismsociety.org/autism-acceptance-month/> • <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/signs.html> • <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/data.html> • <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/addm-community-report/documents/key-findings-addm-community-report-2021-H.pdf> • <https://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/autism> • <https://pediatrics.uams.edu/specialties/developmental-pediatrics/ar-addm/>