

What is autism?



Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication. We now know that there is not one autism but many subtypes, caused by a combination of genetic and environmental influences, and many accompanied by medical issues such as GI disorders, seizures, anxiety disorders and sleep disturbances.

autism affects an estimated **1 in 66** CHILDREN

FOR MOST **Autism is a** lifelong condition.

AUTISM CAN BE reliably diagnosed **around age 2** but average age remains **4**

On average, it costs an added **\$60,000** a year to care for someone with autism.

The incremental cost of autism across a lifetime averages **\$1.4 M to \$2.4 M** with costs increasing with intellectual disability.

autism affects **more than 70 Million** people worldwide

The majority of these costs are in special education and lost parental income.

Nearly **1/2** of those with autism **wander or bolt** from **safety**

autism can affect **the whole body**

around **1/3** of people with autism are **nonverbal**

Boys are nearly **4x** more likely than girls to have autism.

an estimated **50,000** teens age out of **school-based** autism services each year

children with autism are **8x** more likely to have **chronic GI problems**

drowning is the leading cause of wandering related **deaths** for children with autism

more than **1/2** of children with autism **have sleep problems**

1/3 of people with autism have **epilepsy**