

Autism Facts



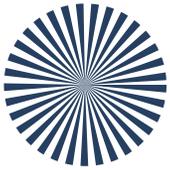
Autism is not an illness or disease, but rather a group of neurodevelopmental differences.



It is diagnosed based on the presence of core traits (such as repetitive actions and language, social, and sensory differences). These traits are thought to arise because of differences in how different parts of the brain form and connect to one another.



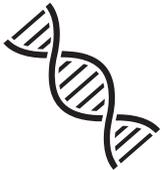
It is present from birth, and may be identified early on or later in life. Being autistic is a lifelong identity, and not something to be “cured” or treated medically.



It is a “spectrum,” meaning that it varies greatly from person to person, but it isn’t linear (people are not “more” or “less” autistic). However some individuals may require additional support to navigate certain aspects of life.



Autistic people can lead fulfilling lives, just like anyone else. Each individual has unique strengths and challenges.



An exact “cause” of autism remains unknown. It is not linked to bad parenting, vaccinations, diet, or infectious agents. Available scientific evidence suggests that there are likely many influencing factors, including factors that are environmental and genetic.



Autistic individuals can possess any level of intelligence, ranging from below average to above average.



Many autistic individuals may have other conditions, including ADHD, dyslexia, anxiety, depression, epilepsy, etc.



Autism's diverse nature underscores the need for personalized approaches to support and accommodate the unique needs of each individual.