

## FACT SHEET



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### Facts About Autism

Autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) are a group of developmental disabilities defined by significant impairments in social interaction and communication and the presence of unusual behaviors and interests. – *Centers for Disease Control*

The Centers for Disease Control released research in December indicating an estimated one in 110 children in America are diagnosed with autism. – *Centers for Disease Control*

For every girl living with autism, there are four boys living with autism. – *Generation Rescue*

In the U.S. alone, a child is diagnosed with autism every 21 minutes. – *Center for Disease Control*

For many children, autism symptoms improve with age and proper treatment. Some children with autism grow up to lead normal or near-normal lives. – *Mayo Clinic*

Based on statistics from the U.S. Department of Education and other governmental agencies, autism is growing at a startling rate of 10-17 percent per year. At this rate, the ASA estimates that the prevalence of autism could reach 4 million Americans in the next decade. – *Autism Society of America*

The number of students diagnosed with autism has been increasing over time; almost 235,000 students, ages six through 21 nationwide, are identified as having autism, and receive special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). – *U.S. Department of Education. IDEA Data. (2007)*

A study by the Special Education Expenditure Project (conducted for the U.S. Department of Education) found that special classes, therapists, aides, transportation, and facilities for a student with autism cost an average of nearly \$19,000 a year, or roughly triple the cost of a typical student. – *Special Education Expenditure Project*

MORE

State and federal education departments in the U.S. spend approximately \$36 billion each year on special programs for individuals with developmental disabilities ages 3 to 21. An estimated \$90 billion is spent on people with autism each year. – *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

Ninety percent of costs associated with autism are in adult services. – *Autism Society of America*

The cost of lifelong care for a person diagnosed with autism can be reduced by two-thirds with early diagnosis, intervention and specialized treatment programs. – *Generation Rescue*

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