

# About Autism



**1 IN 40**

**CHILDREN ARE  
DIAGNOSED ON  
THE AUTISM  
SPECTRUM**

*Pediatrics: December 2018, VOLUME 142 / ISSUE 6: The Prevalence of Parent-Reported Autism Spectrum Disorder Among US Children.*

## Risk Factors identified by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (2019):

- Most scientists agree that genes are one of the risk factors that can make a person more likely to develop ASD.
- Children who have a sibling with ASD are at a higher risk of also having ASD.
- ASD tends to occur more often in people who have certain genetic or chromosomal conditions, such as fragile X syndrome or tuberous sclerosis External.
- When taken during pregnancy, the prescription drugs valproic acid and thalidomide have been linked with a higher risk of ASD.
- There is some evidence that the critical period for developing ASD occurs before, during, and immediately after birth.
- Children born to older parents are at greater risk for having ASD.

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/research.html>



**43.3%**

received behavior-based treatment

## Most children with current ASD:

**6.9%**

received medication treatment only



**20.3%**

received both behavioral and medication

*JAMA Pediatrics | Original Investigation (2019). "Prevalence and Treatment Patterns of Autism Spectrum Disorder in the United States, 2016".*

## Organizations that endorse behavioral treatment for children diagnosed with ASD:

- United States Surgeon General
- American Academy of Neurology
- American Academy of Family Pediatrics
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Psychological Association
- Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics
- Autism Society of America
- National Institute of Child Health & Human Development
- National Institute of Mental Health



## Numerous other outcome studies show substantial gains in:

- Measured IQ
- Educational Achievement
- Adaptive Behavior

*(Lovass, 1986)*



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