



Autism Fact Sheet

- One of five disorders that falls under the umbrella of Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD), a category of neurological disorders characterized by "severe and pervasive impairment in several areas of development." Includes:
 - Autistic Disorder
 - Asperger's Disorder
 - Childhood Disintegrative Disorder (CDD)
 - Rett's Disorder
 - PDD-Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS)
- Affects 1 in 150 births
- Four times more prevalent in boys than in girls
- An estimated 1.5 million Americans have autism
- There is no known cause for autism
- Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability with 10 - 17% annual growth
- Growth comparison during the 1990s(3):
 - U.S. population increase: 13%
 - Disabilities increase: 16%
 - Autism increase: 172%
- \$90 billion annual cost
- 90% of costs associated with autism are in adult services
- Cost of lifelong care can be reduced by 2/3 with early diagnosis and intervention