Facts About Autism

- 1 in 110 children is diagnosed with autism
- A new case of autism is diagnosed every 20 minutes
- More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with AIDS, diabetes & cancer combined
- Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the U.S.
- Autism costs the nation over $35 billion per year, a figure expected to significantly increase in the next decade
- Autism receives less than 5% of the research funding of many less prevalent childhood diseases
- Boys are four times more likely than girls to have autism
- There is no medical detection or cure for autism

AUTISM SPEAKS

About Autism Speaks

Autism Speaks is dedicated to increasing awareness of the growing autism epidemic and to raising money to fund scientists who are searching for a cure. The organization was founded in February 2005 by Suzanne and Bob Wright, the grandparents of a child with autism.

Our Mission

At Autism Speaks, our goal is to change the future for all who struggle with autism spectrum disorders. We are dedicated to funding global biomedical research into the causes, prevention, treatments, and cure for autism; to raising public awareness about autism and its effects on individuals, families, and society; and to bringing hope to all who deal with the hardships of this disorder. We are committed to raising the funds necessary to support these goals. Autism Speaks aims to bring the autism community together as one strong voice to urge the government and private sector to listen to our concerns and take action to address this urgent global health crisis. It is our firm belief that, working together, we will find the missing pieces of the puzzle. Autism Speaks. It's time to listen.

What is Autism?

Autism is a complex brain disorder that often inhibits a person's ability to communicate, respond to surroundings, and form relationships with others. Autism affects people of all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Currently, the causes of autism are unknown and there is no cure. Physicians have no blood test or diagnostic scan that can definitively diagnose the disorder. As such, the diagnosis of autism is based solely upon observations of behavior. Treatment for autism is a very intensive, comprehensive undertaking that involves the child's entire family and a team of professionals. Despite increasing national interest and high prevalence, autism research is one of the lowest funded areas of medical research by both public and private sources.

To learn more about Autism Speaks or download one of the numerous free toolkits, please visit www.autismspeaks.org.

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